

SPEAKING OF THE HOUSE



Exactly one month after 12-year-old Dillon permanently joined her family, **Rep. Debra Hilstrom (DFL-Brooklyn Center)** invited legislators to a reception in the House Retiring Room Feb. 3.

Dillon is the son of Hilstrom's close high school friend who died several years ago. Since last session, the Hilstrom family worked to gain full custody of Dillon. "So many people here helped us and so many gave us moral support through this long process," she said. "I wanted to introduce my legislative 'family' to my family."

Hilstrom and her husband, Joel, have two other children, Stephanie, 15, and Jeremy, 11. The first day that Dillon was a member of the Hilstrom family, he accompanied Hilstrom to the opening day of the session, sitting next to her on the House floor. But the highlight of

the day for Dillon was meeting former Vice President Walter Mondale, who spoke to the DFL caucus before the floor session.



Each House Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee member arrived to find a 3Musketeer candy bar awaiting them on Feb. 3.

Rep. Lloyd Cybart (R-Apple Valley), a freshman legislator, presented a bill regarding Minnesota National Guard tuition reimbursement (HF455). In keeping with tradition, freshmen legislators are required to present members with treats upon the presentation of their first bill.

"Most people know I did 20 years in the military," and when you move around, the unit is your family, he said. Everything you

go through, "you go through together."

The candy bar signifies the camaraderie of the three musketeers. "It's all for one, and one for all," he said in support of all those who are part of the National Guard.



Rep. Kathy Tingelstad (R-Andover) reminded members of attending organized discussion groups she has created for a variety of topics the Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Committee will eventually address.

Jokingly she added, "Yesterday I asked the three groups to each huddle in the corner, and one of the members pointed out that he thought I said 'hug' in the corner ... we'll leave it up to your group, but huddle is a little better."