

SENATOR KOCH: What individuals do you have in mind when you offer this amendment?

SENATOR NEWELL: Some of the people that come down and lobby for various...senior citizens groups, and so forth, at no pay, that are not compensated, and so forth. People that might come in and talk to a few senators on various issues, who are representing say some group of North Omaha citizens concerned about the North freeway, who are basically down here and not paid for it, they're doing it on a voluntary basis, but they do represent a group, an organized group, and consequently would have to report. I'm saying that they should not have to pay the \$25 fee. They should have to pay a reduced fee of \$5 since they're not being paid or compensated in any way for their lobbying efforts.

SENATOR KOCH: Presently, those people who appear on an infrequent basis to speak on behalf of their own individual desires, or on behalf of a group of people, occasionally, we presently do not charge them now. Do we?

SENATOR NEWELL: The way the law is written it says that if they do lobby for a specific group they do have to pay the registration fee of \$25. I'm saying if they lobby...and the question is if they lobby as an individual. But if they represent a group, like the North Omahans against the North freeway, then they would represent a group. If they testified twice before a committee they would be a lobbyist, and they would have to pay \$25. If they are not compensated I think that \$5 should be sufficient.

SENATOR KOCH: To what purpose would this \$5 be used?

SENATOR NEWELL: For the same purposes as the other fee, to help with the records, management, and so forth, in the Clerk's office.

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Newell, I have a little difficulty understanding the intent of your motion. I sat on the Committee on Committee's on a number of occasions. We've had individuals appear before us to waive the lobbyist fee. I think that is the way it should remain. We have waived some lobbyist fees. But there are others who, every time I turn around anymore, are in front of me or next to me and are here more frequently than some of our more high-powered lobbyists out here. I think the Committee on Committee's should reserve the right to determine who shall be responsible for that payment, and who shall be exempted because of the infrequency with which they come here, or because the organization they represent is really a very low profile in terms of its lobbying inputs. No, sir. I'm going to speak against that amendment. I would hope the rest of you listen to this because I think the Committee on Committee's should make the determination as to who should be exempted, and then take it to the Executive Board, or whoever it might be for the purpose of offering an exemption to certain individuals who are lobbying for certain causes which may be on an infrequent basis.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.