

CLERK: Senator Koch moves to return LB 210 to Select File for a specific amendment, the amendment being to strike the enacting clause.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I think most of you realize by now that what we've been doing to 210 has really not quite been keeping good faith with the public. I'm sure that those who initiated the amendments to 210 were justified in what they were attempting to do. One time we had virtually every public official of state in it. Other times we were taking certain members either appointed or elected from the bill. Then we changed the position of lobbyists--who they report to, how they report. What we have really done in 210 is we've virtually put the Commission in a position where there is really no need for that Commission. If we are going to repeal the Disclosure and Political Accountability Act, then I think that we should do that rather than to put them in a position at which at best is tenuous and I would remind, not only this body, but the general public that their concerns about the Political Accountability and Disclosure Act, I think, are due to misunderstandings like many of them are today on LB 170. There is nothing in the Political Accountability and Disclosure Act that prohibits any person from disclosing to the public those things which the public has a right to know. I'll give you one analogy. We had LB 713 and many of you supported that bill, which is the public's right to know. So, what I'm saying here, is if we pass LB 210, we're turning around or denying again the public's right to know only in a different arena. So, the purpose of my motion is to strike the enacting clause, allow the Accountability Commission to function and to try to get the house in order to bring about an interim study committee. I introduced a resolution to that effect and hopefully there will be a comprehensive study of the act to make a determination what changes in law should be made, what public officials should be exempt from the Act and possibly add some who are presently not in the act. Therefore, I ask you to return 210 to strike the enacting clause.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President, I won't take any great amount of time, we've discussed it, beat it to death. The Sunshine Commission that was envisioned hasn't functioned. The political accountability system we had before did function and functioned well. The proof is clear in the filings and everything else. In fact, you had more information, more true information on true conflicts of interest under the old law than you did under the new. All we have created with this new Sunshine Commission is a bureaucratic monster that's going to go on forever, expand like the hydra and destroy and be used to destroy and target individual political people. It has driven already 100 people out of office on planning commissions, etc. How many hundreds of others have failed to even get involved in politics, business men, etc. who should just because of this monster. I urge you to reject the amendment and pass the bill.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Simon.