

April 3, 1979

LB 484

does a good job of getting at the core of the situation that occurred in Lancaster County and the other counties where this problem has come up. So I support the amendment, and I urge your support as well.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, this puts me in an unusual position of opposing my good friend Senator Hoagland and Senator Wesely, but let me explain a couple of things. First of all, the arguments that have been raised here are general arguments in regard to any official and those that work in that office. I fail to see the difference, Senator Rumery, between the county sheriff and the county treasurer. I fail to see the difference between the county sheriff and the superintendent of schools. I fail to see the difference between the county sheriff and the surveyor. Now if Senator Hoagland, in his wisdom, thinks it's important that no employees work in any campaigns, then I think he ought to do this in a straightforward manner. The sheriff...the sheriff runs for office and his deputies are fully entitled to participate under the colors of the amendment offered by the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee...certainly not on company time. Nobody ought to campaign on company time. My mother would tell you that's exactly right, and they don't even do that in Ada. So you don't campaign on company time. We've gone a step further. You can't wear your uniform if you do. You can't wear your uniform if you campaign. This is the only requirement we make of anybody, and if you work anywhere else and you have a uniform of the day, you can campaign in it I suppose. I hate to disagree with Senator Hoagland on this issue, but I think it is a bad precedent, and I'm going to hear it from others. I think the forty-two deputies in Sarpy County are fully entitled to campaign for whomever they wish that's running for sheriff. I offered Senator Hoagland a compromise. He was concerned about forced campaign contributions. I said, I'll agree to the fact that they cannot contribute to their bosses campaign if that's what you want, but I will not agree...I will not agree to saying they cannot participate in any way in that campaign. I think that disenfranchises them and it surprises me that Senator Hoagland would bring forth that kind of argument. So, Mr. Chairman, reluctantly of course, as usual, I rise to oppose the Hoagland amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Sieck.