

March 20, 1979

LB 234

vote no. Have you all voted? Motion is on the adoption of the Committee amendments to LB 234. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? We're going to call for the vote once more. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? We're voting on the Committee amendments to 234. We're voting on the Committee amendments to 234. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 12 nays on the adoption of the Committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Now Senator Nichol, do you want to move the bill be advanced as amended?

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that's what I want to do.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay.

SENATOR NICHOL: LB 234 is the outgrowth of an interim study conducted this past year. In fact, it was going on for the last two years. Senator Reutzel was very instrumental with this study, and with the introduction of the bill. This bill is aimed at removing all exemptions from jury duty based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or economic status. The present statutes carve out several exceptions to people that are eligible to serve on juries. Some of these exceptions include foreigners, ministers, County Commissioners, attorneys, doctors, dentists, druggists, Postmasters, mailcarriers, firefighters, members of the National or State Guard, embalmers, Clerk of the Court, and the list goes on. LB 234 would take out all of these exemptions and put in a provision whereby the court be allowed to excuse jurors upon valid reason shown to the court, and the court will then be required to make a public record of why an individual was so excused. The bill also removes an age requirement that no one over seventy may serve on a jury. The intent behind this act very simply is to allow more people to serve on juries, and also to exclude the possibility of certain classes of people being excused from jury duty.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Two minutes left.

SENATOR NICHOL: The objective is to provide a fundamentally objective and fair jury system similar to the ones used by Federal Jury Selection and Service Act of 1968. Several parties appeared in favor of the bill. No one appeared in opposition. The bill was advanced to