

March 28, 1979

LB 484

George and the lawyer would say, your honor, I object, politely. They had a tape recording of it and the judge finally said because of your frequent and repeated interruptions I will find you in contempt and he is going to serve four days in jail and the U. S. Supreme Court has refused to review the case. When the lawyer tried to remove the case to a federal court where he could have some fair treatment, do you know how the federal system got complicit in this thing. The federal judge worked out an agreement, and this is how they degrade us, where they would not refer to him by any name at all. You are now a nonentity in this court room. I will not require this white man to call you Mr. in a court of law founded on the American Constitution, Senator Venditte. This was in the United States of America. Now he will not say after he reads this article that that is unAmerican because he knows that is what America is about. He knows it. The U. S. Supreme Court knows it and everybody in this Legislature knows it. So it is one thing to say that a person can articulate vocally the word no, it is another thing to say that they are in a position to say no and mean it. Law enforcement officers are in a position to put pressure on individuals and coerce them. Employers, as a matter of reality, are in a position and do use that power to coerce employees. So if you all want this bill, go ahead and take the bill but be aware of what you are doing. Senator Schmit can say that he recognizes the extra power that law enforcement officers have but people don't recognize it apparently to the extent that I do because they think of that power attached to the law enforcement officer as merely a word. I see it come into operation. You all probably would be shocked at how many times I have called the Chief of Police in Omaha or contacted members of the City Council about these random traffic stops of black people even on Sunday when they are coming from church. Well, now it has taken the U. S. Supreme Court to tell Chief Anderson what I tried to persuade him to do, stop doing these degrading, demeaning things and recognize my rights under the Constitution if you refuse to recognize my rights as a human being.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Forty-five seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So when we talk about law enforcement officers and the Constitution, you must remember that they are cloaked with a power that no other group of citizens in this country have and, Senator Johnson, you and every attorney knows what discretionary power to take human life means. No jury, no conviction, not even necessarily the commission of a crime but an officer can take your life or take you to jail. So I think there is a basis in the nature