

April 3, 1979

LB 484

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President and members of the body, I stand in support of our amendment. I do feel that the police officer is an altogether different situation, and other members of county government. I do feel... okay, you can't hear me, okay. I do feel that this is very important for a police officer not to be involved in a campaign of the sheriff's office. In the Lancaster instance we lost ten good deputies just because of this infraction of helping in the campaign, and it actually was an infraction. They weren't supposed to be involved according to the statutes. Yet they became involved. The highway patrol does not get involved in any campaign because of their position, and I feel this is important. Now if we do lose a good officer, it takes four officers to replace him, that is, they hire four people to get one good person, so here in this instance it will take twenty-six persons to hire the individual that was lost, or the ten individuals that were lost in this instance, and it takes some time in order to replace the individuals in this category. So I do stand in support of this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose the Hoagland-Sieck amendment, and I do it almost as reluctantly as Senator Lewis did. Both of these gentlemen are fine, intelligent, reasonable men, and why they perpetuate this unreasonable act I do not know, but I would like to say simply that this issue is one that deprives people of their individual rights to be active in the political process. We do that too much already. We make it too hard for people to be involved and I don't think we ought to continue this sort of wrong action with this type of an amendment. Now I'd like to point out that Senator Hoagland has some problems himself, and I was wondering if Senator Hoagland would come back to the mike, I'd like to ask him some questions. Senator Hoagland, do you believe that employees should not work for their bosses? Is that basically the premise under which you offer this amendment?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I think it's important to emphasize, Senator Newell, that all we're talking about here are deputy sheriffs, and we're talking about campaigns for the election of a sheriff who is the direct supervisor of these deputies, and I think in that particular context why we need to isolate deputy sheriffs from the pressure they're going to feel from their bosses to help them in