

May 11, 1979

LB 162

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes, Mr. President. Senator Newell, this thing has always been controversial as far as I was concerned and there are a couple of things that bother me. First of all, you exempt state officials, state employees and local elected officials from registering as lobbyists. Why do you do that when education is perhaps number one lobbyist back there and you want to exclude all those, is that right?

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. Nichol or Senator Nichol, the situation is this is that many of these individual groups have had a difficulty in terms of applying the law and the only way we can get uniformity here is to in fact prohibit these subdivisions of government. One of the problems is that, let's take an example, if someone from the Governor's Office or one of the directors of an agency should come over and testify before the Judiciary Committee. Under the old definition it quite possibly he could be a lobbyist and would have to file as a lobbyist in regards to whatever testimony he might give before your committee.

SENATOR NICHOL: All right, let me ask you a question. That isn't very good. What you are saying is since they are having difficulty complying we will just take them out of the act. Secondly, for example, I think it is PACE or NAPE or PACE or one of those, instead of having a lobbyist this year, they themselves are saying, you and you and you, go do the lobbying. Okay, you are ruling them out on purpose here and why?

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Nichol, PACE is not excluded. Herb Shimek will have to file the disclosure reports like everybody else, but if on the (interruption).

SENATOR NICHOL: Excuse me, sir. I am not talking of PACE. I think it is NAPE.

SENATOR NEWELL: NAPE is not taken out either. They have to file. They are a lobbying organization.

SENATOR NICHOL: What is the one that is not doing, they are not hiring a lobbyist this year and they are doing it themselves. It is a similar situation.

SENATOR NEWELL: Any organization, if you testify before a committee, let's take an example of Bill Smith with the Nebraska Association of Public Employees. If he comes before a committee and says, I am Bill Smith of the Nebraska