

January 15, 1980

LB 324

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I also support the kill motion. If you want these programs, Senator Hefner, to be totally state funded they have to be totally state controlled. Now these local subdivisions, whether they be city or school or education service unit, want to exist and want to have certain prerogatives. They also have certain duties and responsibilities and if those duties are not being properly carried out, it is the responsibility of the state to mandate certain duties and burdens on these local subdivisions. In the same way that when states begin to trample on the right or ignore the rights of citizens, federal courts have to step in and order that the schools no longer be segregated, order the discontinuance of employment discrimination, order the striking down of locally supported restrictive covenants that limit the purchasing and obtaining of property by certain groups. So it becomes necessary for the state to assume the obligation of protecting the rights of all the citizens and in doing this it must compel certain local subdivisions to assume their responsibilities but what the bill really is, and I guess they kind of finessed Senator Hefner on this one because he looked at it with one eye open and the other one closed, it is a local politician's boondoggle. This bill is not designed to do anything for the local citizens. It is designed to protect local politicians. They have obligations and responsibilities that they do not want to assume. I would venture to say and I don't have the record before me so I am not certain, but I would venture to say that Senator Hefner supported the lid proposition that was before the Legislature, LB 2, or was it LB Atrocious. Whatever it was, I would venture to say he supported it. How can the legislators support a proposition and once it is in place, use that very thing that they helped to impose to say that for this reason other things ought not to be done or other things are bad? I don't think you can have it both ways, Senator Hefner. Now you mentioned the bill that I have to upgrade the pay of sheriffs. If the local people, the counties, don't want a sheriff, they should make that fact known, but if they do want a sheriff, they should have to pay a decent salary. If they are not going to pay the proper salary and yet law enforcement throughout the state is the primary obligation of the Legislature to see that it is carried out, then the Legislature should do something about ensuring a salary or the means to properly enforce the law in the counties and in the local subdivisions. I think this bill was put together by that list of people who spoke for it. I see one guy on here with the same name as my son, David Chambers, but it was not my son. Mr. Jim