

March 5, 1980

LB 605

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and fellow colleagues, I object. Let's say, for example....I'm glad somebody brought up about fighting in the bars, because I think we had one bar had how many people killed in it in Omaha? Now just maybe if this law had been in effect the officer could have walked in there and he said, hey, we are starting a fight here, we better clean this place out, and those people would not have been killed. Let's go another step, and let's say we have a little bonfire and somebody decides to roast some turkeys, and throw some sofas and some furniture on the bonfire and here comes a police officer, and he says, this crowd is getting unruly and out of order, so let's disperse, all of us disperse and others. I think we need this in the bill. What are you afraid of? Are you saying that all officers are vindictive? Are you saying they are all dumb and stupid and they pick on people? Don't you have any faith in your police officers and your state patrol who can get killed on your behalf? I don't know what you are worried about. These people use good judgment. They are not going to go up and deliberately break up some kind of a rally that was held on the steps yesterday or the day before. I think this is a good bill in spite of what some people said. I have faith in the people who asked me to introduce it, and I ask you to vote no on the amendment to strike "and others". Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers and then Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, there is a realism which is lacking in much of the discussion by those who support this bill. If Senator Nichol would have paid attention in the Judiciary Committee hearing he would have heard people from law enforcement admit that if a crowd is as large as some of the kinds he is talking about, the officers are not even told to approach that crowd. This is the kind of situation which I think is totally a..

SPEAKER MARVEL: Excuse me.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SPEAKER MARVEL: For what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR NICHOL: For the purpose of personal privilege. I don't think it is up to Senator Chambers to determine whether I was listening or not. Secondly, he may not have been there when it was being heard.