

March 19, 1980

LB 535

and Disclosure Commission be returned to Select File for some specific amendments. The desire here was to try to work out something that would make this bill a little more agreeable to more members of the body, and with that I would like to have Senator Barrett and Senator Hoagland explain more clearly what the amendments do and why the decision to strike these sections.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Hoagland first then, and then Senator Barrett.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, with your permission I will open on this particular motion and Senator Barrett will close. Let me describe briefly the intent of these amendments. Now, LB 535 does two basic things. First of all, it makes a number of important revisions in the Accountability and Disclosure Act which are strictly housekeeping, which are necessary, which need to be passed this year to go into effect within 90 days after the close of the session, and which are going to make a number of necessary essential changes in the language of the act, and these changes are spread all the way through the act and deal with definition sections particularly, and they make the act more workable. Again, it is important that we get those things done. Now, 535 also, principally in the sections that we are moving to strike, makes substantive changes in the act, and this body, as evidenced I think by the Final Reading vote on this bill earlier, has been unable to agree as to what those substantive changes ought to be. So what we are doing is we are operating on the theory that in those substantive areas we will simply leave the act the way it was written in 1976 and passed in 1976, and we will simply take those substantive changes out, but we will leave the housekeeping changes in because those are so important. Now, one of the principal substantive changes that the act would have made, which has run into considerable opposition is in section 19 which deals with anonymous contributions, and part of this motion is simply remove section 19 and leave the anonymous contribution provisions the way they are now. Now let me explain the way the anonymous contribution provisions are now. An anonymous contribution of under \$50.00....I am sorry, an anonymous contribution of \$50.00 or under is permitted to a candidate committee provided that contribution is made pursuant to a fund raising event or from the sale of political merchandise. In other words, if you have a fund raising event and a hundred people come and the tickets are \$35.00 a couple and you are unable to trace the identities of ten of those couples...

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