

April 1, 1980

LB 940

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. Debate ceases and, Senator DeCamp, you may close.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I really wish you would listen to what I say on this particular occasion because I am telling you right now what I think is going on in here and I am telling you in advance what my methods and procedures are. I want to just deal with the statements made by the various people, my good friend Senator Hoagland suggested, I think he was trying to suggest that I was saying his mind wasn't brilliant or something like that, little minds. Senator Hoagland, Senator Johnson, Senator Beutler, Senator Chambers, Senator Landis, the chief opponents of this particular proposition, I acknowledge you probably have the most clever and brilliant minds in the body and I say that in all sincerity, and as a result of those brilliant minds, you have adopted one technique or policy of using rules, I have adopted a different one. Your technique is not visible but it is effective. Mine unfortunately makes me stand out like a sore thumb when I use it. What is yours? Yours, which a limited number of people can do and which is allowed by our rules and which you do using the rules, is to make sure that something you oppose just takes so much time that you just wear them down. It is not even visible. It just grinds the session as we have been grinding. Amendments that don't stand a chance, LB, as an example, 905, the bill that had thirty, thirty-five votes every step of the way, amendment after amendment, proposal to move to committee repeatedly, kill motions. LB 741, I tried to be up front all the way on it. I said either the votes are here to vote on this issue or not. Even though you claimed my amendment and Bernice's were not germane, every single one of you, even good Chris, god-fearing Chris who never violates a rule, he was hauling amendments up there, too, for the same purpose. I guess what I am saying is I don't mind your criticizing me and talking about this noble philosophy and this virtue of, oh, you are the only pure ones in here, except you are not following your stated philosophy. You are the greatest, most effective, most adept manipulators of minority control that this Legislature has ever experienced. Maybe that is one of the reasons I am concerned about, quite frankly, Omaha district elections. I hate to see minorities completely control the process. I want them to have their rights but I don't want them to completely control the process. So we compare that with the technique I have used, I have used in the Legislature and you have watched me use it for ten years. I don't offer amendment after amendment. If I offer an amendment I tell you right up front. Either