

April 14, 1980

LB 991

would rather do something than nothing and it is time we are doing it and I think we should do it now. I hope you will defeat the kill motion and go ahead and advance the bill.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this is, what, the 58th day of the session and the tour that 991 has had through the halls of legislative deliberation has been certainly expedited by the demand for action and demand for the respond to public opinion, but at this late hour when it is suspected that the use of the word "syringes" might have an agricultural need, what happens? Bang! The Legislature leaps into the fray and decides to write in an exemption for agriculture. We also have the poetic justice of I guess what we would have to frankly call the Omaha World Herald amendment not succeeding making the press responsible for printing advertisements of these natures. We have five Attorney General's opinions on this bill. All we have really is, number one, the intention to do something about drugs and, number two, a vehicle that is ambiguous at best. Aren't we all thinking, aren't we all rushing to a judgment in this sense? Can't we wait until next year if that is the case to draft a bill that doesn't come to this late stage and then have questions posed to it like Senator Burrows question about the use of the syringe and the agricultural phenomenon or the situation that we hear with Senator Keyes and the diabetic and certainly Senator Nichol has not been at all clear what constitutes intent, how that is to be proved, what kind of actions go towards proving intent. I don't think we have had any discussion of that issue. It seems to me that at this late hour I think the point is well taken. The bill has not been particularly well thought out. There certainly appears to be questions about the bill and also what is going to happen to people and what kinds of behaviour they can pursue following the passage of this bill and what kinds are made illegal are certainly unclear at this point. We have not had any explicit detailing of what kind of behaviour is possible and what kind is made illegal by this bill and without that I think we rush to judgment. I hope that you will not suspend the rules. I hope you will allow the kill motion to lay the bill over for a day.