

April 6, 1981

LB 436

of those things I think we would all agree are things that could be discriminated against, if you were of another race, if your color was different. There has been discrimination in the past, obviously, on sex and religion reasons, for disability and, of course, from the country that you are from, the national origin. Now we are putting state origin in there. We are saying if you are from Iowa you are different than you are if you are from Nebraska or Kansas or Minnesota, Wisconsin, Alabama, or wherever. After all, this is the United States and I thought we all were equal in the United States. I think that is wrong for us to tell the employers of this state that they have to take that into consideration. On page 5, subsection (10), where it describes what the state origin shall mean. It "shall mean the state or states in the United States in which a person (a) was born, (b) is residing or has resided, or (c) has received a postsecondary educational degree." Now for goodness sake, if I am an employer in the State of Nebraska and I am living next to the Kansas border perhaps in McCook or Alma or somewhere, I have to take into consideration, two people come to me, I have got to be very careful with it, one of them is from Kansas and one of them is from Nebraska or if one of them graduated from the Kansas University where the other one graduated from the University of Nebraska, that I don't discriminate against those two people based on that. For crying out loud. What are we doing in here? I think we are...this is a simple case of using a sledgehammer to kill a fly and I suggest to this body that we don't overreact in this manner. I think it is dangerous. It is a dangerous precedent and I, personally, don't think that LB 436 should advance.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I supported the bill in committee and I think the principle here is should the best person get the position or not? The man, Mr. Dunn, that appeared before the committee, he was denied the position because he was a Nebraskan and received his education here. I know there are people that frown on inbreeding at the University and I suppose at the colleges as well but have you received any letter in the mail, people from the University being concerned about this? I haven't. So I think the situation isn't that desperate that we shouldn't pass this bill. I would say vote for the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Rumery.

SENATOR RUMERY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature,