

April 7, 1981

LB 477

go unreported or people will refuse to testify. These will cause, this will cause crime to increase and our problems to multiply. I ask you to please advance LB 477 as amended.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit, do you want the floor?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature I rise in support of LB 477. I think that this is a continuation of some of the work that was started some time ago. I think Senator Pirsch has taken a lot of trouble and gone to a certain....a lot of effort to put this bill together. I think it backs up the Crimes Reparations Act. I think it represents a new look towards the treatment of the victims of crime. All too often we find ourselves in a situation where the victim of the crime is the forgotten person. It seems to me, and I concur entirely with Senator Pirsch, that we as a society owe something to that victim of the crime and this, although it is a small step, it is a significant step in the right direction and hope that you will advance the bill and that it will become law.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask Senator Pirsch some questions about the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Pirsch, do you yield?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes, I'm sorry.

SENATOR WESELY: I would like to know for instance the bill of rights for victims and witnesses, where did that originate? Is that model rights statement or is that something put together locally?

SENATOR PIRSCH: This is patterned after a model national victims and rights, out we did alter it slightly to fit Nebraska and what I believe Nebraska's wishes are.

SENATOR WESELY: Are other elements of the bill taken from other statutes in other states or have you looked at other states programs to try and identify what you are proposing here?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes.

SENATOR WESELY: So what you have could be considered drafted from model legislation?