

April 8, 1981

LB 40

called the House of Representatives. The little states said, well, wait a minute, we've got no people but we are a state too, each state should have just as much representation. They got something called the U.S. Senate, and so on and so forth. Issues linkage, political reality, special interest pressure balancing one side and the other has been the history of this country, and you are seeing some of it here today on one of the issues. You are seeing pressure for this, support needed over here from certain sides to get what one group wants. All it is is a manifestation of the wonders of our political process. It has worked pretty good. The second story has to do with the greatest wheeler-dealer, compromiser that I have seen in the history of this state in the Legislature. Now I will give you a hint. It is not Johnny DeCamp. You see, Johnny deals in this fashion, he brings people into a room, he talks to this side, talks to that side, keeps working together, and that system works pretty good. He would have a good strong base of votes and so on and so forth. But what if you don't? What if your philosophy is way over here, let's say. What if you are a total minority? I mean literally. What if the color of your hide is black, how would you deal with an issue, how would you get your point across? You would do like the greatest compromiser wheeler-dealer does in this Legislature. Ernie forces more compromises than I ever did. Now he does it different. He gets up and he says what he is going to do to you. He uses the process and he uses it well, and I have seen it on bill after bill, whether it be abortion bills or product liability bills. He keeps wearing you down until you go with him, maybe 20 percent, maybe 40 percent. He uses the technique that works best, and he is a master at it, and I applaud him. The third story has to do with when I was a little boy. I was out hunting one time and I found a rabbit or some doggone thing caught in a trap and I tried to free it because I hated to see it suffer. The doggone thing turned around and started biting me in the hand. I kind of feel that way sometimes when dealing with you Omaha folks. You have got about six different leaders going eight different directions. Now maybe I have been tricking you all along. Maybe I just outfoxed Ernie. Or maybe Ernie and I outfoxed you all. Hell, we may have had a deal going here. But I will tell you this, right now for the first time I have seen the Omaha delegation kind of talking all out of the same mouth. And I will tell you something else. You can have LB 40 in its pure form which is my original bill, which I am plum satisfied with, and you can prove that you can work together just once in your life, and I am going to give you the shot here. You will advance LB 40 today if one hundred percent of your Omaha delegation all votes for it in its pure form. That's the only way you