

April 24, 1981

LB 466

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 466 was last considered by the membership on April 10th. At that time the E & R amendments were adopted to the bill. Senator Chambers at that time made a motion to indefinitely postpone, Mr. President. We now have before us the Chambers motion to indefinitely postpone the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers, if we can have just a second. In the north balcony from Senator Fenger's district 54 students from LaPlatte Elementary School, Jeffrey Smith the Principal, Mrs. Moss, Mrs. Poore and Mrs. Thompson teachers. Where are you folks located? Okay, welcome to the Unicameral. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this again is the abortion bill and I have a kill motion on it. But as with other matters that have occurred during this session, I have some concerns now about the integrity of the system itself. I have observed the conduct of the Governor on a number of occasions and he will have received word from his own Attorney General that a bill may be unconstitutional. Now in the case where a bill is highly politicized or highly political, might be a better word, the Governor has disregarded the advice of the Attorney General. LB 882 is one such bill and we know that there was a lot of lobbying by high powered special interest groups, so despite being told that it was unconstitutional, he signed it, which shows that matters of Constitution don't have much of a troubling effect upon the Governor. Another such bill was LB 205, which I fought very strenuously against and it was Senator Newell's bill which dealt with granting authority to fire fighters only in metropolitan class cities. That also was considered by the Attorney General's office to have constitutional infirmities but it made the Governor no difference, so he signed it. There have been several abortion bills which had unconstitutional provisions and the Governor acknowledged knowing this fact but he signed the bills anyway. So, again, constitutional considerations were not troubling to him. The so-called "bong bill" of our recently departed colleague, departed from the Legislature, Patrick Venditte, has been restrained I believe by the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on constitutional grounds. Again the Governor signed this bill despite being told by the Attorney General that it was probably unconstitutional. But all of a sudden on one bill this session the Governor's concern for the Constitution and trust in the Attorney General asserted itself and on our bill to get expenses the Governor was suddenly so concerned about the Constitution that he vetoed that bill which had no concern to him whatsoever. So it begins to look to me that the Governor is playing a political game. Now on this bill we have a unique and