

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, even though this is my priority bill I am not one of the original co-sponsors and I hadn't intended to get involved in the debate on this simple and rather obvious bill because I thought passage was assured, but suddenly a great deal of very cleverly managed opposition in the form of Senator Fenger's motion to kill and a number of amendments including Senator DeCamp's package that he just passed out which is clearly designed to gut the Sunshine Act has made it important, I think, that I speak as one who is familiar with the history of the events leading up to the Sunshine Act of 1976 and the history of events leading to this particular bill and I think it is important for us to spend a little bit of time talking about that history so we will not forget why this bill was introduced, why it should not be killed and why it should not be amended and used as a vehicle to gut the entire Sunshine Act without a public hearing and without all of the other procedures that we normally undertake before amending major legislation. Now let me say also that it is not my practice to be critical of colleagues on the floor of the Legislature and I want to apologize in advance but because of some things that were said during the debate last Friday and I think it is important that certain things be said lest all of us are very cleverly manipulated out of doing what we all know is right and what we all know must be done by way of putting into the provisions of the law, the provisions of LB 134. Now let me talk for a moment about the incident that triggered the necessity for LB 134. Last May when the annual campaign reports were filed before the Political Accountability and Disclosure Commission why it turned out as we well know now, that one of our colleagues, thirty-five months before his reelection campaign in November of 1982 raised almost \$19,000 in "campaign contributions" from our helpful and ever-attentive friends in the lobby of the Legislature. Now within the next five months more than half of it was spent for personal items, home mortgage payments, medical bills, fish tanks, a microwave oven and the like. \$5,500 of that went into gold coin investments, presumably setting the money aside for future use. Now about the same time the newspapers disclosed that our colleague also led the expense reimbursement list for the first eleven months for the period July 1, '79 through June 30, '80. He was reimbursed \$6,992 in expenses for that eleven month period. Thus we had for the first time in the history of Nebraska to my knowledge, a \$30,000 a year legislator. Our colleague supplemented his \$4,800 annual salary with almost \$7,000 in expenses and almost \$19,000 in campaign contributions raised thirty-five months before reelection and spent largely on personal matters. Now that news was not received well inside the