

public more involved in every issue. I think if there is one danger we have in Nebraska and this country generally it is the danger of apathy, and I see this kind of an amendment as a curtailment and harassment, in some instances, of the public's expression as to what they feel is right and proper. And I think we have to remember another thing. You know, we have got a tremendous advantage as elected officials. We have commanded the media. You know, we can get up and talk on this microphone and we can take a visit with Tom or Frank or Marshall, or whoever, and we have a public forum. We can get our point of view across and it doesn't cost us a dime, you know, and I guess that is kind of an understatement a little bit because we pay a heck of a price by being down here, so I will yield that point, but the fact of the matter is we have access to that media. We have access to public forum and I can...I can see some abuses, potential abuses where groups or organizations may launch a certain offensive or defensive on a particular issue, but I think those abuses are in the minimum, and I really think this amendment has greater problems than it has advantages. I think we are going to send a message out to the people of Nebraska that, hey, we are trying to curtail, we are trying to stifle, we are trying to gag. You don't have the same right to speak as we do and we are going to restrict it. Now I don't think that is the intent of the introducer. I am not suggesting that is the intent of the introducer. I am saying, however, I think it is going to appear like that message is going out of this body and I think it is ill advised.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Howard Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would rise to support the Schmit amendment. It appears to me that it is time for us to not only talk about people who run for office but for those who try to influence individuals who are running. I, for one, would not be opposed at all to seeing Common Cause come under this kind of an amendment. I believe it does. You will notice in your Nebraska Blue Book, Common Cause is not even registered as a Nebraska organization. During the time I was running they sent me a questionnaire. I wrote them and said, if you will send me a copy of your members I will be happy to answer your questionnaire. They refused to do that. Then I asked them if they were incorporated. I found out they were not. I found out finally that everybody in that organization is appointed, and I think it is about time for us to find out something about some of these organizations. I would hope the Schmit