

April 29, 1981

LB 134

amendment might also cover the League of Women Voters. They are supposed to be noncontroversial, but I find every once in a while they are taking a position on some issue, and if they do, then they ought to register just like everyone else. So I would urge this body to support the Schmit amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would just like to say in answer to some of Senator Dworak's concerns it is not my intention or I believe the intention of any person who favors this amendment to stifle public opinion or the public's ability to take part in a political process. I want to tell you very frankly that it is very easy...very easy you see for someone to put together an ad like this and it could be as Senator Fowler has said from the conservative or the liberal point, it wouldn't make any difference, it could be any point of view, but they could imply that there are thousands and hundreds of thousands of persons who support this position. Now I can tell you, very frankly, that if I had paid for these ads and I don't even know today if it qualifies for the cheap rate as a regular ad or if it has to pay the double rate of a political ad, that would tell us something and I am going to check on that, but I think that it is interesting to know that this ad did not stir a great deal of response. But if you will listen to the people who perpetrated the ad, you would believe that from the grassroots of Nebraska from the Sandhills of the west to the Missouri River, the public is marching a hundred abreast and a hundred thousand deep in opposition to this project. Now I think that the public has a right to know if one man put up a hundred thousand dollars for this project or if a hundred thousand people put up a dollar. I think it influences all of us. I think we hear a lot of conversation about the public. The facts are these. The public has to depend upon those of us who were elected. They must depend upon the media, and the public is led to believe sometimes by an infusion of money that a certain issue is of major importance and it is not true. I think that the public has a right to know who supports a position and who does not or who opposes it. You know, I have always asked the question myself. We hear a great ~~loud~~ cry from members of the media about accountability and disclosure, etcetera, etcetera. I think the day will come sometime when you get an editorial endorsement as a candidate that there ought to be a position in that situation where you are