

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I believe you have the amendment on your desk. I think the amendment speaks for itself. I believe that you can see, and this is not to be taken... I hope that the attorneys in this body do not take this personally, but I believe that if we are going to play in the ball park we should all play by the same set of rules. It is a little bit unfair, for example, if you allow one group of people to get on first without having to hit the ball and the rest of us have to get up there and hit the ball. I think that in this instance if we continue the procedure we are following today and we do not require those legislators who are attorneys to file a list of their clients as the rest of us must do with our business contacts, the day will come and I don't know that that would be all bad, but we might have 4 attorneys in this body, and you wouldn't know anything about their activities. Now I think that...and I know a little bit about the problems that a business man has when he is in this Legislature. I have discussed it with many of you and especially some of you who are making a major sacrifice by being here, but I know from personal experience that the public would just as soon in many instances not do business with an elected official. They don't like the problems that would be associated with perhaps thinking they are getting a favorite treatment or something and they avoid that, and I can go back to my own record when I was in the spraying business when companies told me that they would just as soon do business with someone else because if I happened to have a disagreement with the Director of Agriculture over an issue they might be looking at a bunch of inspectors because they are customers of mine. I think the same thing can hold true with many other people here who are in business. I think it is not at all unreasonable to assume that if I retain Senator John DeCamp as an attorney, that Senator John DeCamp and myself ought to both know that the Accountability Commission is going to have a record up there that says that Schmit is a client of DeCamp. I think the same thing is true if I were to hire Senator Johnson. It would be interesting, I am sure, if he were my attorney and I changed my position on a bill or he changed his position on a bill at a critical time. I think if the public knows that Senator Johnson is my attorney, they can make the decision as to whether or not the vote was in the public interest or a personal interest, whether it benefited Senator Schmit or Senator Johnson. But I think the public has a right to know. As Senator Dworak said, business men make a sacrifice when they come here.