

April 29, 1981

LB 134

in favor vote aye, opposed...(microphone not on). Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Schmit, did you wish to close, please?

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...(microphone not on)...of the Legislature, Senator Johnson says the amendment is poorly drawn. Senator Beutler says the amendment is nonsense. He said it is not going to require him to disclose the names of his clients, then he has nothing to fear. He has absolutely nothing to fear. I say under the amendment the attorney shall operate the same as any other candidate. That's all. Now Senator Beutler disagrees with that language. If he wants to draft better language and help me with that, that's fine with me, but let me tell you this, ladies and gentlemen, we have decided to let the sunshine in. He said you can't disclose the names of customers, clients, etcetera, ladies and gentlemen, read those accountability reports, read where it says you will get your money. Try leaving out an individual who paid you over a thousand dollars and you will be standing up there in the hot seat and answering to Mr. Burke in violation of the law. That is what you will be doing. And I am going to tell you something else again. Talk about closing loopholes, there are many more loopholes that we can bring in here and anyone in here who wishes to hop through one of them can find it. We know that. You know what the Accountability Law does, don't you? It applies to the average candidate or political officeholder who maybe gets a speeding ticket once in a while, never violates any laws or anything else, but the individual who wants to circumvent the law is going to find a way to do it, and I can assure you that any attorney or any other member of this body can circumvent that law a hundred different ways if he so chooses. What I have asked you to do is to state in the statute that attorneys answer to the same law that the rest of us do. Now if you are so naive as to think that an attorney cannot be retained by a firm or a business and that that might not be to the public interest, then why in the world would you want to know whether or not I did business with a certain bank, a certain implement firm, a certain feed company, or something of that nature? I can tell you very frankly that the law should apply equally and equitably to all. At the present time we talk about the client having the privilege in the lawyer/client relationship. Let me tell you, ladies and gentlemen, at the present time privileged people in politics are the attorneys. They stand out head