

April 29, 1981

LB 134

but I prefer the latter. I would just as soon to have waited in addressing this body until my motion to the Schmit amendment was up, but I feel compelled to talk about this even though we have belabored LB 134 way beyond the time limits that I feel a bill is worthy of discussion, but I cannot let slip by the Schmit amendment and the amendment that Vard Johnson, Senator Johnson, proposes which makes him party to the Schmit amendment, which requires that all volunteers that work on a campaign have their names submitted and their mailing addresses to the Accountability Commission. Members of this body, to me this is a violation, an indirect violation of the ballot box. For every candidate to expose through the primary and the general election just precisely who they are working for or who is working for them is in a way indicating to a certain degree what their prejudices and what their votes are when it comes to candidates that are running in that particular race. I agree with everything else that is in this amendment and I think it is perhaps called for, but certainly when it comes to listing every single person that works on your campaign, and expose him to the political consequences, the possible political consequences of exercising his constitutional right on his own volition and privately working for candidates, is beyond the call of duty and perhaps beyond the rights provided for citizens in our Constitution. In this respect I would ask this body to oppose the Johnson amendment and indirectly the Schmit amendment. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support the Schmit amendment, and I would just comment briefly on Senator Wiitala's comments, and I guess I see no difference, no difference between the supporter who gives a certain amount of money which does have to be reported if it is over the minimum amount. And so we are saying in this amendment, or Senator Schmit is saying in this amendment that these supporters will be supplying their names if they are volunteering a certain amount of labor which is a service of value. Absolutely no difference at all. Everyone that is going to support a candidate either by his checkbook or by his feet running up and down the block are doing a service to that candidate and if they do that to the excess of a certain minimum, they should be on record. There is no difference between the monetary contribution and the contribution in time.