

April 29, 1981

LB 134

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I was not going to say a word during this whole debate on LB 134 but I can't believe some of the things that are being said and some of the things that are being done. Unfortunately, I guess I am coming from a purely selfish background. I do not have any relative that lives in my district. I was not supported by the teachers and some other groups. I was supported by individuals, friends, church people, school people, and all I can say is that if you vote against Senator Wiitala's amendment, you are effectively killing citizen participation in government. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, I call for the question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote no. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate is ceased. Senator Wiitala, do you wish to close?

SENATOR WIITALA: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, if you just take a few moments, I know it has been a long arduous day following this bill through the A.M. and well into the P.M., I would just like to stress basically two points. Number one, I don't really feel that my amendment guts Senator Schmit's amendment. It takes one portion out of it, it's an important portion, but nonetheless no more important than the rest of his amendment, if you take the time to read it. The thing I would like to say in closing is what I was alluding to earlier when I spoke in favor of this amendment and so aptly brought out by Senator Pirsch by continuing along the same line, this is a nonpartisan Legislature and I am very sensitive to that characteristic of the Unicameral, largely because from the District that I come from I am equally represented by Democrats and Republicans, and to be a success in that District and to be consistent with the state's Constitution I felt that I had to run a nonpartisan campaign in the strictest sense of the word. By the nature of Senator Schmit's amendment, he is asking people of different political views, perhaps philosophical views, perhaps religious views and so forth, to openly have their names placed on a list in support of a