

April 29, 1981

LB 134

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, thank you. Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I really don't think that this amendment is all that bad, but at the same time that I say that and the same time that I may vote for it, I think that we should all recognize and the public should recognize what the process is that is going on right now, and the process is called trashing a bill, and the way it is done simply is that you have a bill here that has 27...28...29 votes and you try to figure out a way to get amendments attached which will ultimately undermine 6 to 8 of those votes. Now if this amendment gets attached, probably the teachers' organization and probably some other large groups out there are going to come talking and lobbying like crazy with those 27...28...29 people who were originally supporting the bill, and they will try to pull off the bill as many as they can, and then those who have been against the bill from the beginning will have succeeded in defeating it by cynically getting amendments added that they purport improve it, when really their ultimate aim is to defeat it. I think, in fact, I am going to vote for the amendment because it does make some sense, but if those votes are pulled off, there will be long, long series of amendments on this bill trying to get it back into shape, and I am going to come back and ask you to dump all the amendments and reconsider again the original purpose of the bill and if that original purpose was not worthwhile, and ask you again to adopt the bill in its original form, if that happens. But I will take the risk. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp and then Senator Koch.

SENATOR DeCAMP: I will just waive.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members, I cannot support the Schmit amendment. I am going to tell you why and I don't like to be this candid. I think we are all assuming that politics today is a high level, noble, ethical, and you talk on issues, and that is the way much of it is carried on but some of it isn't carried on that way, and when we provided in this amendment the fact that you have to put the full name of the individual, their address, and everything else, you have placed those people in a position of being harassed, intimidated and a number of other things. I don't believe that the amendment is worth that, but as I say, if it's always as noble an endeavor as we say it is by principle and by history, fine, but that's not the way some of the political