

April 29, 1981

LB 134

I have listened all afternoon to the original purpose of this bill and I would remind you that this bill was drafted by legal minds, and if you look at page 3 it says, "No expenditures shall be made nor campaign funds used for the purchase or payment of clothes, or medical or dental expenses of a candidate or the members of his immediate family", and it goes on down to list certain specific things. Now, I am not an attorney but I think all of those things could have been very easily encompassed by saying, no campaign funds will be used by a candidate for any expenses of his family or to give to his family. And that is why I have been questioning all along the real and the original intent of this. I think the majority of the sponsors of this bill were sincere in wanting to make it an act that would make politicians more accountable, but when I look at this and realize that some of this language is taken verbatim from one Senator's accountability report, I asked one of the sponsors of the bill, what other Senators' accountability report did you look at to make sure that you really got all the loopholes closed? He said, none, just that one Senator's. So I looked at another Senator's accountability report and in all sincerity I offer this amendment that says, you cannot use campaign funds to pay members of your family to work on your campaign. Can you think of a better way to hide money and put it in your own pocket than to give it to your own family and put it down as salary for working on your campaign? I think there is a conflict of interest when a Senator takes their own legislative aide and gives them 12 or 13 hundred dollars and calls it a consultant's fee for working on their campaign, and that is why I have put in here that you cannot use an elected official's employees or any government employee of any elected official and pay them any stipend or fee or salary to work in a campaign. I am not doing this just to procrastinate. I am doing it with the intention that the introducer said, close the loopholes. I think this is a much more glowing loophole than any of the others. So I hope there isn't a lot of debate on this amendment and that you accept it sincerely. I don't think it is right, if I get campaign contributions, just give it to my husband and say, here, Dave, here is a \$1000 for working in my campaign. It's that pure and that simple, and it is honest, and it isn't intended to strike out at any one person and maybe when this bill is finally settled, maybe you will want to do a study on everybody's accountability report and then look for all the other loopholes. So I sincerely ask you to support this amendment and I don't think there is a Senator on this floor that will feel that he has done