

April 30, 1981

LB 558

be more appropriate time to do it and I think on that basis I would oppose the amendment as it has been offered.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I know this is probably going to be impossible, but I wish we could strip the subject down from its partisan aspects, because if you really take a look at this question, if you are not willing to accept the amendment, then what you are saying, in effect, is that you are in favor of establishing a new precedent in how we handle fiscal accounting in state government. This amendment is expressing a conservative point of view. It is expressing the traditional point of view, the way we have done things in the past in the State of Nebraska. Contrary to the impression that Senator Dworak might have left you, there is not, to my knowledge or the knowledge of the fiscal staff, any split budgeting between code agencies on any employees. The only situation where I am aware of where money is split or that the fiscal staff is aware of, was the situation where there is an attorney some place sharing...that is budgeted partly to a code agency and partly to the Liquor Commission which is not a code agency. That practice then is not one that I think we want to encourage. If we get into this, there are literally hundreds and hundreds of positions in state government where an individual in one agency does some work for another agency on this project or another project from time to time, and will get into the horrendous business of trying to budget portions of salaries for different employees, which is utterly ridiculous. So it is basically on the basis of that precedent which I do not think is wise, that I signed my name to this amendment. I think if you were listening to Senator Warner, if I understood him correctly, his bottom line was simply this, that in concept the amendment is correct, but that politically it is not the right time to do it. Well, I don't think the politics of it should be either here nor there. If it is the right concept, we should continue with the right concept as we have for a hundred and some years up until the present time. It seems to me that fiscally speaking as far as accounting is concerned, that the better policy is to require one code agency or another to account for each individual employee, and that is what this amendment asks you to do. It does not ask you to incur any additional costs, but to maintain our traditional system of accounting. Thank you. And Senator Wesely wanted to take the remaining time, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature,