

May 29, 1981

LB 321

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hefner. Is he here? He is not in the telephone booth, is he? Senator Hefner. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, I would like to call the question but I have to answer a couple of things. If I get a pain in the neck like I've got this morning I go to a doctor for advice. If I get a sore tooth, I go to a dentist. The last person, Senator Chambers, that I would take advice from when it comes to religion is an atheist. So, when I consider your arguments about church and state I have to remember these arguments are coming from an atheist who quotes the Bible quite frequently but like Shakespeare says, "The devil may quote Scripture for his own purposes." I do kind of after these many months get the feeling that your Bible is the Constitution. I go by the Bible of Moses, the Old Testament and Mathew, Mark, Luke and John, the New Testament. Now the Old Testament and the New Testament have never been amended but your Bible, the Constitution, there has been twenty-six times they had to change it so there must have been something fundamentally wrong with it when it was written and we are still anticipating changing it. Also, I would like to remind you, Senator Chambers, since you are the most concerned about equal rights, and because you do worship the Constitution, the Bill of Rights was not added to the Constitution until twelve years later. So how great were those men that wrote your beloved Constitution? They left you out of it for twelve years and longer, and longer. They left whites and blacks out of it when they left the Bill of rights out for twelve years. So, I am not one of those that stands here and says, the Constitution is an inspired word of God. I take the other Bible and believe in it. You want to talk about separation of church and state. Senator Chambers, we get government money to feed children in parochial schools as well as in public schools and I think you ought to get that corrected. I would like to remind you too, that in Omaha, Sacred Heart Church and St. Benedict's Church twenty-five years ago were parochial schools that were teaching black children and we were feeding them out of our own pockets. It was the parochial schools that looked out for the poor blacks and fed them and we did it with donations. So, a lot of black children today that are lawyers like Senator Chambers might not have survived the depression if it hadn't been for the parochial schools, not only teaching them for free but also providing free food and at that time, we didn't have federal subsidy except I think maybe we did get milk from the government. So, you've already got government schools and church related whether you like it or not and whether you believe it or not. Do you know that according to law parochial schools can borrow

610