

March 9, 1982

LB 652

For a little bit of history, I used to think Ku Klux Klan was always in the South but I was told by my father where I was born and raised that we had Ku Klux Klan there. It was out of my heritage, Germans, who rode and burned crosses when the French migrated there to farm. So Ku Klux Klan is not native to the South. It has been around this nation a long time all over. So for us to sit here and try to throw up all these horror stories in our interest to kill this bill, we can do it. I am suggesting let us give it four years and try it. Then if we find there are abuses, misuses, then we can change the direction and the destiny of a certain few people we are trying to protect. I would remind you also we are not talking just about the evangelicals, we are talking about the amish, we are talking about other groups of people who are also being threatened under the present law. So it is easy for us to speak only to a certain few, but you must remember as we heard in the hearing, there are others who have interest as well in this bill and they have accepted it as being reasonable.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, colleagues, I am getting tired of this subject. I think the rest of you are, too, but I have to address some of the remarks that Senator Chambers made about segregation in Omaha. There is no question that segregation has existed for many years in Omaha. I can remember as a young girl reading the want ads where they had houses for rent or for sale and the heading on that want ad said, "For Colored". At that time we said "colored", not "black". When I first read that as a young girl I couldn't understand. Why does that say "For Colored"? So there is no question that segregation has existed for many years in Omaha. I think in the last ten years they have made some strides in eliminating it to a degree. They have stronger laws on real estate sales and real estate salesmen can lose their license for trying to direct people into certain areas away from black dominated areas. But on the question of people leaving the public schools and going to private schools, I don't think I agree with Senator Chambers that they are doing it so much to avoid going to school with black children but it has been my experience in speaking with many Protestants that they are sending their children in Omaha to parochial schools because parochial schools still have discipline. When I was a guest on a radio talk show for about six months in 1980, I made a talk one day about education in Omaha and I said then and I say it now, I think some of the teachers in some of our school districts deserve combat pay for what they have to put up with and

8561