

March 10, 1982

LB 647

it much more difficult for citizens to voice their concerns about government and I don't think I could support anything that would do that. But let me give you a concrete example of the fallacy behind the restriction on individuals carrying petitions from one county to the other or making it more difficult for individuals to carry petitions outside of their home counties. I don't remember whether it was the City of Lincoln or Lancaster County, whichever one it was, was interested in a wheel tax not too long ago and the wheel tax had an impact that greatly exceeded the residents of this city or this county. It had an impact on the 20,000 students at the University of Nebraska here. It had an impact on people who come to Lincoln to visit and to work and to participate in the governing process here as lobbyists or other representatives and it simply didn't make sense. Now under this bill, as I understand it and correct me if I am wrong, Senator Hefner, if a student at the University who lived in Hemingford was very much opposed to having to pay more tax, wheel tax, here in Lancaster County, he would have to post a \$500 bond before he could carry a petition in this county and yet that tax would impact him directly and that doesn't make sense to me. That just makes no sense at all. That is one of the individuals who definitely should not be impacted by bonds and be restricted from participating in the process. It just doesn't make sense. I don't know why this Legislature would want to make it more difficult to affect and participate in the democratic process. I am very much opposed to LB 647.

SENATOR CLARK: I would like to announce that Jan Carpenter from N.C.S.L Denver office who is a staff assistant assigned to Nebraska among other states is under the North balcony talking to Senator Marsh. Would you stand and be recognized please. Also under the South balcony as guests of Senator Nichol is Mr. James Brisson, Superintendent of Schools, Scottsbluff. Will you stand and be recognized. Thank you. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Hoagland. We have about eight minutes on this bill. At that time if the bill is not...time runs out, we are going to continue the bill later at another time. We are not going to take a vote at that time.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, I would like to rise in support of Senator Johnson's amendment. When the voters in 1912 in Nebraska enacted the right of initiative in this state, why Nebraska became the second state in the Union to permit its own people to write its own laws by drafting a law, circulating a petition, putting it on the ballot, and voting on it. Only South Dakota had the right of initiative before Nebraska does and now only twenty-four or twenty-five states in the Union have that