

March 17, 1982

LB 629

I sent out a survey in my area and I do have a number of papers in the area. It was interesting to find out their replies because basically what it amounted to is, found out there, is the cost of print went up, postage went up, labor costs went up and ink went up. In addition to that I made a tour in the area and visited a number of these newspapers and there are thirteen in my district and that is an interesting little enterprise and I was really kind of impressed at kind of the modesty of these buildings and so forth. There is only one paper in there that has a fairly modern unit and it is the one at St. Paul, Nebraska, and the others are very modest. There is nothing elaborate about them. They are having a tough time trying to make ends meet. They provide a public service out there and some of the comments I got from some of the people out there, one was that a newspaper is just as valuable to that area as a banker is. Another one indicated, like if, it is kind of like a person in his third generation. There are some of these papers that have got third generations out there. They are very dedicated people. It would be like cutting off their arm or taking the heart out of the community and so forth and for these reasons I would very much support LB 629. I would urge you to move it on. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise in support of the bill. I believe that the publication of these official notices are very important to the people. I think that a tremendous service is played by the elements of the press which do the publication. I do not believe they should be forced to publish those items at a loss. I know that there are one or two newspapers which will at this time refuse to accept the legal rate of publication for those notices and, in fact, will not publish them for the present amount of money that is involved. I think that it is very important in these times because of the controversy that surrounds the expenditure of public funds in particular, that we provide, that the public shall know at no expense, at least not at a sacrifice to the press, some of the expenditures that are made by various subdivisions of government and so I would encourage the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, I might have a question of Senator DeCamp before you run off, John. On page 2 of the bill you've stricken some language there on line 11 that the fees for such publication of measurement shall be in eight point type and then in the rest of that paragraph it says

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