

April 8, 1982

LB 807

expenses and salary are paid to come to Nebraska and lobby a bill are going to get you to hitch yourself to their wagon to be hit on the haunches by their whip and you trot in lockstep to deny to the citizens of Nebraska the very thing they are getting. Senator Hefner knows that the people who brought this amendment were paid to come here, not just expenses, they were given a salary. Now it seems stupid to me to establish a principle for your citizens which you are not going to require of those outsiders who come here and try to get you to restrict your citizens. Stupid is the wrong word. It is worse than that. Stupidity is based on lack of knowledge and understanding. This is not an issue where there is a lack of knowledge and understanding. There is a total and complete understanding and that is what makes it so pernicious, that is what makes it so wrong. Why should every citizen in this state who should want to circulate a petition or every group who may not have the means to personally do all these things be denied the opportunity to reimburse the expenses of people who are going to cooperate. If I have a child go to the store and do something for me, I give the child some money. I don't ask people to volunteer and do everything they do for me. I am sure that if Senator Hefner bought a political ad, he would pay money for that. We spend money for political activities. The only time we want to put the restriction is when it comes to the rights of the people themselves. Then we will hear all this hypocritical talk about my constituents this, my constituents that. There is no concern about constituents. They are a handy excuse and shield to hide cowardice behind. When we are politically afraid to take a position, we give that whinnying statement, "m-y-y-y constituents", and we don't care two cents worth about them. So one of the two rights, one of the two which is guaranteed by the Constitution of this state and is self-executing is to be restricted by this Legislature not to benefit the constituents but to benefit a well-heeled, well-financed business organization headquartered in Denver whose stated goal is to make it as difficult as possible for citizens to launch petition initiatives. I think it is reprehensible.

SENATOR CLARK: You have about twenty-five seconds left.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I think it is wrong and I am shocked really that Senator Landis would let this thing be attached to his well-thought out, highly-refined bill. If the amendment is added, there is no way I will vote for the bill and I am sure that that won't make any difference because by the time one of these pernicious issues reaches this level the chips have been called in, debts are being

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