

April 8, 1982

LB 807

a very strong likelihood that there would have been a referendum to repeal that bill if it had been put into statute. So what Senator Hefner is saying here today is that if a banker or someone who worked for a bank wanted to go out and give a speech to the Lions Club somewhere couldn't do that; if he wanted to circulate a petition, if he wanted to get involved in this referendum process, couldn't do it. Now I don't think that is good public policy. I think if a lobbyist who is working against an issue, wants to get involved in a referendum, sobeit. What we are really doing by passing, in my opinion, this tight a restriction on the initiative and referendum process is making it impossible to repeal the acts of the Legislature and I guess I think we do a good job down here but I don't think we are always a hundred percent correct, and once in awhile we might even make a mistake, and maybe the people ought to have the chance to correct our mistakes, and so I think not concerning the fairness of this issue and priority and not considering the bottle bill and any of those things, I think just from a clear, logical perspective, we are placing very unreasonable restraints and restrictions on the initiative and referendum process. That is not good in a democratic process. It is not good when we have a Unicameral Legislature that rushes things, that has hundreds of bills and pressure and pressure to pass paddlefish bills and other things in the last couple of days of the session and move things along and move quickly. So I don't think that is good. I think that referendums are important. I think initiatives are important and I think it is very unwise of us, very, very unwise of us to restrict the initiative and referendum process anymore than it is already restricted. So I am going to vote against these amendments, and if they are adopted, I am going to have to vote against LB 807 which is a bill that I otherwise would support. So I would urge those of you who are concerned about LB 807, and more importantly those of you who are concerned about the democratic process to vote against these amendments, and if they are successful to vote against the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President, colleagues, I just want to echo the sentiments that have been expressed by Senator Cullan and Senator Chambers and others. You know I think we are really applying a double standard here. I know in response to Senator Chambers questions, why Senator Hefner indicated either that he thought it was illegal or it ought to be illegal for campaigns to hire people or campaigns to reimburse people for their expenses. Now, of course, it is not illegal under current law to either