

March 22, 1990

LB 1246

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The committee amendments are adopted. To the bill itself, Senator Schmit, would you like to open, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Mr. President. The committee amendments, as you know, are the bill. I want to echo what Senator Chizek has said. I wish that the committee could have reported back to this Legislature and said that we have conducted an investigation and we have found no evidence of wrongdoing, and we have found no need for further work of the committee, and that the system is working, and that, therefore, we will not have to introduce any additional legislation or ask for the committee work to be continued. Unfortunately and tragically that is not true. You have heard other witnesses...other legislators here testify as to the necessity for this legislation. I have had numerous contacts, too many to count, from individuals, some...most of whom support the work of the committee, a few who have been extremely critical of the work of the committee and this Legislature. We have been accused and I, personally, have been accused of turning the City of Omaha upside down, of challenging some of the finest people in the City of Omaha. Ladies and gentlemen, without referring to any specific information the committee has developed, I want to say that the committee only developed information. The information we developed we turned over to the proper authorities. We will continue to do that just as it is developed. The committee, nor myself...The committee, in general, nor myself personally does not have the option, does not have the opportunity to launder or to delete any of the information that we develop. It has been explained to us very precisely and definitely that the evidence which we develop is not for us to judge, it is for us to deliver to the proper authorities, and let those individuals proceed from that point. We are concerned, frankly, that perhaps some of the evidence which we develop may not be given proper credence in certain areas, and if so the committee will then decide what, if any, further action needs to be taken. But the committee has acted properly and responsibly. We have acted, I believe, with circumspect and discrete and almost total deference...total deference to the protection of individuals, and we hope that that will be reflected in the work of those grand juries which are now convening. The committee did not and was not organized to keep from prosecution anyone who might have