

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 23, 2004 LB 1241

Future is the name of a group who failed in 1998 to successfully complete a ballot initiative campaign. The purpose of that campaign was to pass a constitutional amendment, known as Initiative 413, to limit increases in state and local tax collection. Who are some of the people who led this effort? Some of you who were here will remember the effort, and the Legislature was just excoriated and ripped up one side and down the other about being irresponsible and wasting money and unworthy of the public's trust so the constitution should rein us in. These are the stalwarts who did not pay their late filing fees: Walter Scott Jr., who could pay this amount out of his watch pocket, Walter Scott Jr. is chairman emeritus of Peter Kiewit Sons Inc.; David Sokol, chief executive of MidAmerica Energy Holdings Company, and also an official on that MECA board in Omaha handling, or mishandling, the new arena; Michael Yanney, chairman and CEO of America First Companies. These three could be called the three musketeers, the three blind mice, the three bears, the three anythings, but to allow them to disband and not pay their late filing fees is not something the Legislature ought to do, in my opinion. Their presence should be left in place as an eternal memorial of how these very wealthy people disregard the system which they themselves are condemning for not doing the job the way they want it to be done. Rather than go after the treasurer and make that person responsible, Accountability and Disclosure said, well, that area of law is murky so they won't do anything. They just let this outfit disband and turn over to them whatever they had of value, which was nothing. There was a little guy who was the treasurer of an operation, and they were going to go after him, and he said he didn't think he was responsible. Well, now if they were going to go after him, they'd have to go after Yanney and Sokol and Scott. So they didn't want to do that, so they let this little guy off the hook too, and never made an attempt to establish that the treasurer would be liable for the payment of these late filing fees. Subsequent to this, the law was changed to clarify that area of the law. I don't think that Yanney, Scott, and Sokol should get away with this, and I wanted to say their name on the record, because Jesus, Senator Aguilar, Jesus, known as the Christ, said that what you whisper in the closet shall be shouted from the housetops. Now I'm not going to go on top of the Capitol Building, but thanks to television