

March 21, 1983

LB 43

SPEAKER NICHOL: The bill advances. Senator Newell is not here and they are working on LB 341 so we will move on to LB 43. Senator Hoagland is here. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 43 was a bill introduced by Senator Hoagland and Senator Nichol. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 6th, referred to the Government Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. There are Government Committee amendments pending.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Landis, are you going to take the amendments or is Senator Hoagland? Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, these are the committee amendments to LB 43, the Open Meetings Law. If you will take a look in your book, we have tried to give you in essence, a white copy of the bill to make it easier to read as compared to trying to interpolate committee amendments back into a green copy. The committee struck several of the basic provisions of the bill including intent language at the first calling for a liberal interpretation of the statute. We also struck a provision with respect to mandatory attorneys fees. What remains in the bill appear on the, I think it is about three and a half pages of the white copy and most of these are language that originally appeared in the green copy. The place where the committee made a change could be found on lines...on the first page on lines 10 through...no, that is not correct. That appears on the second page. Turn to the second page of the committee amendments and you will find new language that the committee is responsible for and that appears in the bottom of the page on complete minutes and then on the third page with respect to the right of video taping and television cameras appearing we changed the original language in the green copy to exonerate the principle that video taping and photographic coverage could occur in a public meeting but that televising or photographing was susceptible to reasonable rules and regulations by the body. In other words, the body has to let video taping occur but they can regulate how that is done for the orderly progression of the meeting. Originally that grant of authority was made without additional language making it clear that there would be the right to regulate that conduct. We also narrowed from three to one the number of copies to be made available to the public of materials distributed to members of the public body for their perusal and discussion at the hearing or at the meeting. Additionally we changed somewhat the language that requires a public body to make the attempt to permit the public to hear and attend public hearings. In other words, we did not make the absolute