

January 24, 1973

entire state that knows. Now we cannot take up these bills, do justice to them, have ourselves completely crushed with a whole mess of bills that--involving every subject under the sun and do justice and credit to them like we should. If we want to build up the image of the Legislature as we often talk about, I don't think we ought to blame the news media, although I have done my share of that too, I think what we ought to do is to stop this foolishness about trying to reform everything under the sun in one or two sessions. Now the last session we had dumped in the Legislature a Court Reform bill that was revised, remodeled, redone, reshuffled, and I believe it was a two or three days at the very minimum that it left in which we could consider this massive bill which covered some 130 to 140 pages, but we passed it. Sure we did. We set--we set our court procedures in all counties except Lancaster and Douglas county which curiously were not affected by this Court Reform bill. We set all--we set the administration of our county courts and justice in all the other 91 counties back at least a hundred years. We passed a model self-defense bill which the only thing model about it is that nobody knows what's contained in it now. We have passed a divorce reform bill which nobody understands including the judiciary and they are making up the rules as they go along and so there is a hand-to-mouth, day-to-day, filling-in and trying to fill in a bill that we passed without understanding what we were doing. Senator Schmit talks about a Probate Code bill. I venture to say that Senator Schmit, and I have great respect for him, hasn't the slightest idea what his bill contains. It will upset a hundred years of precedence. I think we--or two or three hundred years of precedence and it takes no--in consideration--nothing about people who have--who will never be aware of what we are doing, who have already planned their programs and does not take into consideration all the ramifications involved in federal estate law, federal tax law, state estate law and all other problems that are connected with it. Now these things are massive things and ought not to be dumped in the Legislature and passed with a fatuous notion that we have, somehow, a model because someone, somewhere has decided in another state that we need a Reform and then go about a reformant. We have insurance reform laws coming up this session. We're going--being pressured into this by the federal government but people tell me everyday we do not understand what is contained in these bills. We can't understand it, we cannot get it out of the information that is passed out. Will you please tell us? Will you please look out for us? We should be very cautious about this business and we should recognize that we are holding a public trust here and we are the only people, the only line of defense that exists between all these--all these ill-considered ideas that often come in about reform, reform

(End Belt #5)