

January 31, 1973

(Start Belt #12)

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Mr. President, I have one incident which is not any dream I have had but is certified by the records. This is a statewide problem and of statewide concern because Mr. Kiewitt makes it that way. I see his representative smile. That's about the only defense he has. Let me give you one instance, my friends, how powerful this man is and this is the sworn testimony given by Mr. Kiewitt before the District Court of the state--of the city of Omaha under oath and with the council that existed at this particular time met in the plaza of the Kiewitt Plaza up there in the dome. Nobody knew how they happened to get there instead of the City Hall but by sheer incident they were all there, none absent. Do you know what Mr. Kiewitt told them. The language may not be exact but he intended to say. He said, "Gentlemen, if you don't do what I tell you to do, I'm going to try to remove you". That's a matter of record, sworn testimony, never printed in any sheet because he has said in the past I never got anything by publicity and that he never did. He only believes in publicity for others besides himself because Mr. Kiewitt doesn't bear the scrutiny of a light. He doesn't operate that way. This is the power this man has and this man knows how to use it and he does use it and when you control through ownership absolutely 97% of the World Herald, that's what it was the last time I looked, 97% of the World Herald. The working reporter said, "he never tells us what to do". Of course, he wouldn't talk to a working reporter. His keepers down here, for example, don't know what goes through his mind obviously because if they did maybe they wouldn't do it, although I would question that. This man owns outright KETV. As you've seen in the past he can lay it on, but there's no rebuttal to it. Now, let's see how open this thing is. Let's see how many people are represented and let's see how many people really don't know what they're voting on most of the time. Sure, this city council and the mayor are a tight organization. Maybe, they are not wealthy themselves but where they get money to run they don't need any because they got all the money they need and I have no objection to that. But that's the system. 2% of the people of this state run everything from the state of Nebraska into the national Congress. The establishment runs this state and they run the city of Omaha with an absolute iron hand. In the Omaha Public Power District, for example, they have a contractor, the name unimportant, who is for all practical purposes the sole individual who approves all the payments on the nuclear power plant for the Omaha Public Power District. He is also a sub-contractor of Mr. Kiewitt's not on the nuclear power plant, of course, because that's too obvious. But in my judgment, he couldn't live without the sub-contracts of Mr. Kiewitt. He borrows money from the Omaha National Bank in which Mr. Kiewitt is on the board. Do you think he could borrow money or anybody in a like position with Mr. Kiewitt opposing it. Of course, you couldn't. This, my friends, is the establishment. Let's take my own case, and I don't complain of this. ????? this morning and Mr. Curtis spent \$250,000.00 being returned to the United States Senate and that is only a part of it because anybody who has ever run for public office knows that there is a substantial amount of currency that nobody ever reports including Senator Carpenter. We're all men. We're not children. We ought to stand up once in our life and stand for some kind of a principle to stop the insidious croach of this man who controls and rules the city of Omaha and to some extent, the whole state. He went into the Court of Douglas County in the area of the construction on the Omaha Public Power District and he went on there and he settled because he was wrong. And Mr. Kiewitt never settled anything if he wasn't wrong. He pleaded guilty