

March 25, 1974

(Start Belt #2)

The meaning that you wanted interpreted by is going to be one grand mess. You are going to look, I think, you pass this bill ridiculous. On that point alone. Now, on page 7, I want you to take a good look at the top of page 7. What if a person handles his own campaign. Can't he do it? It's unclear whether he can do it or not. Does he have to have a treasurer? Now if you are running for the Legislature, or some other nonpartisan office. Sometimes you don't have a board of directors, treasurer, and all that stuff. I know when I've always filed, I've handled my own business. I'm capable of doing that. But if of course, someone isn't, why then maybe they should get a guide or some kind, but does this prevent that? And I could go on and on with this bill, but I want to call your attention this morning. This is a bad bill, like the one that was raised Friday in my absence. This a bad bill. Take a good look at it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner. And then Senator Chambers.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I'd rise to oppose the motion to strike briefly for a few reasons. Senator Syas has indicated to take a good look at a bill, he didn't expand particularly on what he wanted you to look at on the different sections that he cited. The last one, only is clarification for chairman or treasurer of a political committee. The rest of it is all old law. The one provision that I have had the most comment on is the limitation of a thousand dollars contribution which was old law from the law of Nebraska for many years. True there was some violation of it which was never followed up, but it was not any thing new. Secondly, I would suggest to you that, if you want to have affective campaigns or practices law, you don't make exceptions. When you make exceptions you just as well forget it and not pretend that you are not going to have any enforcement at all, because the exceptions are nothing but the creation of loopholes that get around it. It is true that some maybe hurt more by it than the others, but on the other hand, it's also equally true or more true in fact, that misuse is less likely. Certainly, any state wide organization could have contributions by their local membership organizations which would be true in every case. In fact, this would provide the opportunity for a local organization to more nearly direct the members locally want campaign contributions to go. Fourth, I suggest that if the national situation which is coming to light more and more each day on individual contributions, it becomes obvious to me if you want to buy influence and influence through political campaigns are to be bought and sold, the one way you prevent it is putting a limitation on an individual contribution. Now, there is no other way to do it. And finally on the proposition of when you would have to start reporting. Obviously, the request to start reporting, even though you had not filed, it would only be pertinent if you started to accept campaign contributions, and if you are accepting contributions, even though you had not filed, it seems to me that it is in order and proper that those contributions be recorded.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I wonder if Senator Warner would yield to a question

PRESIDENT: Warner yield?