

March 5, 1979

LB 450

that has the greatest arrest history in this state but if we are to have meaningful legislation that deal with jobs, we have got to have a vehicle so that certain arrest records are not public records. LB 450 was the beginning of that vehicle. LB 450 was not the best drafted bill. It is not necessarily a well drafted bill. I have commitments from Omaha lawyers at this juncture who are willing to help me draft amendments to LB 450 to make it a good arrest records bill. If this bill is raised to General File I will come back between now and the time the bill is heard with very thoughtful conscientious amendments to make certain that arrest records are available to law enforcement agencies but are not available to the public at least to the extent that those records do not lead to convictions. I think it is time that we eliminated this significant barrier to employment in this state. I would ask for your support in getting this bill from Committee. Let me suggest that I don't mean this act in any way shape or form to chastise the Judiciary Committee that killed the bill because I really don't mean it that way. I personally have been involved now in committee hearings where at the end of the afternoon the committee itself is fatigued, is tired of hearing as many bills as it has heard and sometimes indefinitely postpones bills merely because it is exhausted at the end of a day. I would not blame the Judiciary Committee if that is what happened with this particular bill because it is not as well drafted as it should be and it was part of an over-all package, some of which was terribly lousy but this is the one part of that package that ought to survive. We should have a chance on this floor to deal with this problem, to vote it up or to vote it down, I would hope we would vote it up, and to eliminate this terrible impediment on employment in this state. I would ask for your support.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Simon. Senator Simon,...no, all right, the Chair recognizes Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, a question of Senator Johnson.

PRESIDENT: Will you respond, Senator Johnson?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, I shall.

SENATOR COPE: Senator Johnson, when you say that the records are open for anyone to go see, now does it also