

March 28, 1979

LB 484

are talking about don't wear blue, Senator Venditte. The sheriff's department wears brown and I think it might be good to indicate that you would at least recognize one of these individuals if you saw him. Now I am not opposed to other groups having participation in the political process. Why the World Herald has been against me even before I got in the Legislature, they said a troublemaker Senator Chambers obviously will be, a problem solver definitely not but it was my vote that brought their press bill out of committee yesterday so things change and you can't tell from what happened ten years ago what might happen tomorrow but I have never said that the news media ought to be muzzled. I have never said that. In fact what I would like to do on a bill like that is put a penalty on law enforcement for violating a law of that nature. The Chamber of Commerce imported a gentleman from Washington, D. C. to run against me and he happened to be a lawyer but, Senator Venditte, I didn't say he ought to be disbarred or that lawyers ought not be able to participate in politics or that they shouldn't run against me. Why lawyers are the easiest thing in the world for me to knock off like it is for me to withstand the news media and the World Herald. They help me. They give me a forum and a platform so I welcome their opposition. Now the OEA, they have been against me and teachers, too, Senator Venditte, but you can always tell when a great man is on the scene because the dunces immediately form a confederacy against him so they compliment me and pay tribute to me by what they do. Oh, and then the ministers, they had an organization in Omaha and they came out against me. So what I said in my campaign is that all the forces of evil with the money, the religious and spiritual power have now arrayed themselves against poor, lonely, little me, but in the same way that Ali Baba was a match for the forty thieves, I said the odds are just about even except that I still feel like a bully. But what we are talking about here this morning is not a position of being antilaw enforcement. We are talking, Senator Venditte, about a situation where individuals can be coerced and pressured into doing things which they may choose not to do. So rather than this bill without my amendment being a bill that would liberate deputies, it would put sheriffs and other officials in a position to bring coercion to bear and it would be difficult to prove that that has occurred because the law authorizes these people to participate in politics. By removing them from the political scene, that would not happen. So before I sit down, let me tell you what the amendment will do so you will know what you are voting on. It would put the law right back where it is now. It would return the law to where it is now. The next thing, it would add a proviso to make it clear that one of