

March 28, 1979

LB 484

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Landis, for that performance, I give you the Oscar and Senator Newell will get the Oscar for the best supporting role, but I still think what you ought to do is look at the realities of political life in this state and in this country. If what Senator Landis said is true about that law that he cited being effective, then the Lancaster County deputies would not have had the problem that they had. What Senator Landis is considering is that people in general feel the way I do, Senator Landis, that they have no fear of threats that are made. Fears with reference to threats, Senator Landis, they don't fear threats of bodily injury, being killed and being subjected to other types of things. You are assuming that most people feel about those threats the way that I do but that is not the case. Most people are put in great fear and dread when those things are brought to bear upon them, and because of this, there are employees who will have a legitimate grievance which is supportable against an employer but they are afraid to bring it because they feel that even should they win in that particular little skirmish they will have to continue to work in that environment and petty vexations and other things can be brought to bear which will either cause the employee to quit or do something which will justify termination and I am sure Senator Landis is not so naive that he is unaware of these types of tactics. There are a lot of ways to frighten people out of making use of the law. Now if you are satisfied, and I looked at the votes on that Board and I was kind of surprised, I guess nothing should surprise me in the Legislature any more, I was kind of surprised at the pretended lack of understanding that this body is showing of the dynamics of politics. We have had issues before us such as the abortion issue where some of you have come to me and mentioned the pressure that you were under that caused you to vote the way that you did. Then you are going to sit around here and play like people cannot bring political pressure. We know that there were deals and agreements made around the organizational period of the Legislature and those debts are going to be called in as the legislative session progresses. Then the people who know those things are going to sit around here and pretend that pressure cannot be brought to bear. I must say that when it comes, I am not going to use the word "hypocrite" any more this morning, that is too harsh, but when it comes to wearing a false face, a hypocrite, and I am sure that those who have studied anything about acting know this. That was simply a term that meant an actor and actors used to wear mask so a hypocrite is one who masks what he or she really is. Now there are things which are done on this floor which contradict what we know to be reality, not only reality