

April 3, 1979

LB 484

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up, Senator Newell. Senator Vickers.

SENATOR NEWELL: Thank you.

SENATOR VICKERS: I think about all I can say is ditto to everything that Senator Newell was saying, but I rise in opposition to this amendment also, and I would just like to remind the body that if we start in this direction I don't know where we're going to stop. What about the county clerks, and the county assessors, and the county treasurers, and all the other elected officials that have people working under them? Are we going to tell them that they cannot help their bosses in their campaigns too? I really oppose this amendment because it's so far reaching. I don't know where it would lead us to. I think it's a direction that we definitely don't want to go.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers and then Senator Schmit.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I think when we deal with a sensitive issue like this, there has to be more precision in our thinking and in the language we use to express our ideas. To say that we don't know where this bill is going, I think is an overstatement because the bill clearly deals only with deputy sheriffs, and only with elections where the sheriff is to be elected. Senator Newell, I think shows his lack of precision when he attempts to compare the office of a senator, which is political and does political things with that of a sheriff who does not claim and should not attempt to enforce the law in a political fashion. Senators are known to make political decisions, Senator Newell, but when it comes to the enforcement of the law there is an entirely different category of action involved, and if Senator Lewis and others so carelessly intermingle words as to say there is no difference between a sheriff, a superintendent of schools, and these others, then I think it's time for him to go back and review some of the lessons that he gave to his English students. Words are used to designate objects, or to encompass or express ideas, and the words should not be misapplied. There is no way a superintendent of schools could walk up and place a person under arrest. There is no way legally a superintendent could pull somebody off the road and put that person in a position of going to court by issuing a citation for exceeding the speed limit. I don't think there is anybody except the politicians on this floor who do not