

April 3, 1979

LB 484

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...like the clerk; it's just like the surveyor; it's just like all of these nonlaw enforcement functions, and I realize that there is an attempt being made to trivialize this amendment, but it is not trivial. Those deputies in Lancaster County who lost their jobs will tell you it's not trivial, and I don't think that for Senator Lewis or the few people in Lancaster County this type of amendment should be rejected to maintain the integrity of the sheriff's office and the election process. Take this, as what it has been called, a compromise and put it on the bill and it will not infringe on any legitimate political right that the deputies have, but it will take care of that larger public right, and in some cases where you have sensitive positions, the right of the public transcends that of specific individuals who voluntarily place themselves in those positions.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit and then Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this is the first time I believe this session that I have had the luxury of witnessing a division among my urban friends. It is with rare relish that I'd like to see it continue and I reluctantly rise to speak, but I have to rise in opposition to the amendment, because of the very unenforceability of what we've talked about. You know, what we are doing if we adopt this amendment is that we are forcing those individuals who want to participate in political activity to do the same thing that other individuals are doing at the present time, and if you think that deputy sheriffs are the only ones to participate in political activity, then stick around for a few years and you'll find that every kind of elected and non-elected, appointed and disappointed public person participates in political activity. It's no secret. All of us at one time or other have felt the hot breath of various individuals on our back, and Senator Sieck, I doubt very much that you'd want to limit the participation of the Natural Resource District people in political activity. If you did, you'd certainly cramp their style to a great deal, I'll tell you that, because they're very good at it. But what you're going to do here if you adopt this amendment, is that you're going to drive them...the deputy sheriffs into a clandestine operation, and you're not going to stop them. You know you're not, for the very fact that Senator Chambers pointed out...the law has not been enforced at the present time. We have a multitude of laws on the books that are not being enforced. They don't do it. They're not going to do it. You're going to find the County