

April 5, 1979

LB 101

SENATOR VENDITTE: And, Mr. Speaker, in closing I just have this comment to make in that I will continue to use fiscal restraint whenever I can and whenever I vote and I will continue to support this piece of legislation but I do it reluctantly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, Senator Venditte, like Africa, always something new. That is an expression that one of the writers gave about that continent but I know how we could control the amount of money spent on this bill. When the number of deaf people reach a certain level we can either kill all the excess or we could enact a law that will say no more than a certain number of deaf people will be recognized in Nebraska as existing. Then we will keep the money level at a certain point but, Senator Venditte, with reference to the figures you have read I would be willing for the state to spend that money to help these people. That wouldn't cause me to cease my support of the bill and I notice that in the drive for fiscal responsibility there is often events in this Legislature, a willingness to attack the weak or the friendless but not the powerful. For example, I was sure that I would hear, Senator Venditte, since you were opposed to that cutoff bill as weak as it was and the small amount it would cost the ratepayers, I think a penny more a year on their bill, yet I saw in the paper the other day where O.P.P.D. as one of the seventy some odd nuclear generating plants in the country may have to pay as much as \$5,000,000 to help pay the cost of the damages caused by the Three Mile Island near tragedy. Now they are insured for \$140,000,000 at Three Mile Island. Anything in excess of that will have to be paid for by the other nuclear generating plants around the country and there are about seventy-two of them. So, I heard all of that discussion on the floor where we were concerned about pennies because it would cost pennies to help extend due process of those people, Senator Venditte, who may run the risk of freezing in the winter time but when this group, O.P.P.D., without authorization from the Legislature, with no control by the Legislature, can put itself in a position where \$5,000,000 can be taken at one clip or perhaps the many more millions of dollars than that that had to be paid in that judgement to N.P.P.D. I believe, because of a disagreement over a contractual arrangement. Nothing about that is discussed in the Legislature so when we decide we are going to become fiscally responsible and conservative I hope we will