

April 20, 1979

LB 443, 162

We are going to try one more bill after this and then we are going to adjourn. Two bills? I woke somebody up, didn't I. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, no nays on the motion to advance, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is carried and the bill is advanced. Senator Newell, do you have a pair of bills to finalize today's activities? Do you want to discuss first of all LB 162.

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, Mr. President, I do.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 162 was introduced by the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee. (read bill)

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, this is political accountability. Basically it is one of those bills as paraphrased what Senator Schmit said this doesn't hurt anybody, it doesn't do very much and well it is not quite that way. What it does do is this. It changes some things, it clarifies some things, it takes some of the Mickey Mouse out of the political and accountability law. The amendments do this. (1) They clarify that a lobbyist does not need to report expenditures associated with communications between the lobbyist and his or her principle. (2) Excludes the University of Nebraska from list of exempted groups, basically those groups that are exempted under the main provision of the bill are elected officials and others that are not considered lobbyists any longer. (3) Deletes from the lobbyist registration form the reporting from the first year, and allows, basically what it does is say you do not have to anticipate fees if you get paid on an hourly basis it is pretty hard to guess how many hours you are going to spend on lobbying something so it takes some of the Mickey Mouse out of there. (5) Lobbyists who retain a salary must report that portion of their compensation that is reasonably attributable to lobbying. In other words one of the biggest problems that we have had in fairness between lobbyists who are full time and lobbyists who are only part time is that a lobbyist say for MUD or OPPD who might have other functions have to report their full salary even though they are working 60-70% of their time for the company in other areas other than lobbying and if we are trying, the idea behind this lobbying reporting thing is to get comparability to show how much money is being spent so all we try to do is equalize that by making sure that we are only talking about that portion that is being spent for lobbying. Number (5) it deletes the requirement that the principal reports the name and addresses of all state officials, executive and legislative branch any member of the immediate family and so forth. Number (6) deletes some content on monthly statements. (7) Deletes Section four in its entirety which does...okay the rest of it isn't very important. Number (10) provides simpler wording in the section requiring