

May 11, 1979

LB 162

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, hearing no objection, so ordered.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we take up the motion to advance the bill, from California, a friend of Senator Marsh, Dr. John Anderson, was in the room and so it will be so recorded that he was a guest of the Legislature. We are ready to advance the bill. Senator Newell. Okay, you so move.

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, I would like to just explain it for a second if I could. LB 162 is a product of some long negotiations between the Miscellaneous Subjects Committees and various other interested groups, primarily the lobbyists and the Political Accountability Commission. There is in my understanding general agreement with the bill as it is presently written, since Senator Hoagland's amendments were not adopted, it is a bill that we have general agreement on. It basically makes a number of changes. It changes, it increases the amount of gifts not prohibited from \$10 to \$25. That concession was for those lobbyists who wanted to provide green fees for certain members of the Legislature and this will allow that to be included. Also it exempts state officials and other state employees from having to register as lobbyists. It clarifies those definitions. It also provides some changes that aid those lobbyists who are not here full time and their duties are not completely and totally related to lobbying, those individuals being lawyers who might work on or those individuals who are employees of a firm who lobby only on a partial way. It says that they must prorate their salary and prorate their expenses to conform with the law. That makes it much clearer when you are comparing full time lobbyists who live in Lincoln and those who drive back and forth and those who are only partially involved in lobbying. The rest of their activities are for an employer in a different area. Basically 162 I have not heard of any lobbyists or any other groups, the Political Accountability Commission is also in agreement. This bill should once and for all, well, maybe not once and for all, but it should for at least the time being resolve any disputes as to how the Political Accountability Act will be administered and so forth. It takes a lot of the provisions that have been difficult to live with out and for that reason the lobbyists have asked me to add the emergency clause. The Commission is also in agreement with this and for that reason I think we have a bill that should be noncontroversial.