

April 14, 1980

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beaten back and I'm glad, personally, because it gives me the opportunity to show the irrationality of the Legislature. It gives me the opportunity to stand up here and hurl it in the teeth of the Legislature, before my colleagues who are in deliberative assembly assembled. It gives me pleasure to be able to do this without fear of contradiction. Nobody on this floor can stand up and say that the amendment that I am offering should not be offered, but there will be a lot who will vote against it, because you have no regard for the Jehovah's Witnesses. Their particular form of "insanity" seems unreasonable, but if they were a larger religion, one that has an international spokesman who can go around the country and the world blessing people when they are hungry, not giving them bread but giving them blessings, then that religion's view is respected. Or if it is a church that infiltrates the Internal Revenue Service and every other governmental body and threatens and intimidates politicians and newspaper editors, that religion can get some consideration. But let it be a little hangdog, drippy-tailed, slope-shouldered religion that seems to border on cultism and it has no chance in this Legislature. Who is to say that one person's superstition should command more validity in a legislative assembly than another? To me none of them are of any value. None of them are any good. None of them have any impact anywhere. All of them try to hustle the people and get money. They will take from the poor, but when the widows and orphans come for a handout they can't get it. They are told, God Bless you. Well, let God Bless the preachers and these other religious people who try to hustle the money off the parishioners. So what I see today myself doing is somewhat stepping out of character in one sense because I am speaking for a religion, a religion which has no spokesperson in this body, but on the other hand it is consistent with what I believe in. When I see the weak teamed up on by the strong, then I tend to feel an affinity for that weak individual or group, and who is weaker than the Jehovah's Witnesses? In Lincoln just a few days ago a child was put under the custody of the court in order that a blood transfusion could be administered for the health of the child. So their religion was violated by the court. And now we come to a situation where a group of religious people and fanatics...and fanatics, I say, are going to impose an irrational point of view on the state, or attempt to do it. But it is pointless. It is of no legal effect. It is good to go out and tell people of whom you are afraid, look, I voted for this, I am against abortion, I told you that. What I would like to see the Legislature do if it is really sincere, is vote against