

things that many of the people don't even know are hurting them. They come here to lobby strictly for business and not for the people. My first year here as a freshman I introduced a bill to stop Douglas County from giving \$50,000 a year of taxpayers money to the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce to come down here and lobby, again, not for the taxpayers, but to use their money to lobby for what business wanted. But ironically the Attorney General, when I asked for his opinion that he had given the Mayor of Omaha several years later, nowhere could it be found and I want to tell you, Senators, as a freshman I never saw a bill killed so fast in committee as that one that would prohibit Douglas County from giving \$50,000 a year to our Chamber of Commerce and the taxpayers didn't have a vote in it. In fact a couple of years ago the World Herald did a story about how the Chamber of Commerce, or rather the County Board very sneakily on the agenda put, resolution regarding the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce. They didn't even tell them that the resolution was to give them another \$50,000 of the taxpayers money. I don't know if Douglas County is still giving \$50,000 a year to the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, but I do know after I introduced that bill I got calls the next year from county officials asking me, Marge, do you still feel the same way about giving \$50,000 to the Chamber of Commerce? And I said, you bet your sweet bippy I do. So to the best of my knowledge they haven't done it, but I haven't checked on them lately. And that's why I'm going to support this bill. At least it's voluntary. You're not putting your hand into the taxpayer's pocket without them knowing about it. You're not doing it sneakily. You're not using the money to work against the people. Many times our Chamber of Commerce comes down here with bills that are strictly for business and very much harmful to the people of Omaha. What is good for business isn't always good for the poor people that have to pay for it. So I would urge the adoption of this amendment and also the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Barrett, please, then Senator Schmit.

SENATOR BARRETT: Mr. President, members, I, too, rise in opposition to the amendments and perhaps ultimately the bill. I think that mandatory checkoff money should be used solely for the research and the marketing and the development which was the original intent of such a bill,