

constituents from Omaha to Scottsbluff, from Falls City to Chadron. It is extremely unfortunate when we find in a situation that develops as was reported in the paper this morning and I want to refer specifically to the article by the World Herald in reference to vote trading between video slots, as the World Herald refers to the article, which is in itself a lie. You know if we were to call the bill a video slot bill and put that language in the law, the World Herald would immediately insist upon redefining video slots and not to confuse it with video lotteries and we all know why. The point I want to make is this. There is no level below which some people will not sink in an effort to defeat a bill. The World Herald has chosen to try to defeat LB 144 and there is no amount of chicanery, there is no level that is low enough that they will not sink below it even to the point that they would jeopardize a legitimate claim of deserving people in Commonwealth. People have said to me, and I have listened with some interest, relative to now you must vote for this bill to prove you weren't trading. I reflect the same thought that Senator Labeledz reflects. If the World Herald thinks they can intimidate me by such an article to make me vote for the bill to prove that I was not vote trading, they can go to blazes. I have been on record here for 17 years in many capacities, but I have never hidden behind the cow, the sow, the plow or the press and I do not intend to do so. The point I want to make again is this, that I will not vote to advance the bill today and I can take any amount of vitriolic press that someone wants to pour upon me. I may not have the most years in this place, but from the standpoint of mileage or from the standpoint of abusive press, I've probably got more than even Senator DeCamp, and deserve it less I might add, but the point that has to be made here today is that the free press, as much as we respect it and demand it, has a right to report what they please, but they do not have the right, I think, to destroy a claim such as Commonwealth's by attempting to imply something which does not exist. There is not a member of this body who can say that I ever attempted to trade my vote for Commonwealth...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...for 144 or any other issue. If so, I would appreciate that they would say it here where they have immunity. I defy them to say it off the floor. I'd like to say also I will not vote to advance the bill today. I will