

May 17, 1985

LB 401

SENATOR LANDIS: I will allow my light to go on later, if you don't mind. We'll have the opponents speak first. I'll just drop down the listing.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, it really doesn't matter whether you adopt this amendment or not as your "excuse" for voting for the bill. The issue is whether you are creating a new social system. That social system is everybody is the boss, therefore, nobody is the boss. When you eliminate responsibility, or the ability to be responsible, you eliminate the ability to make an agency function as a responsible agency. The essence of this system is everybody is the boss because everybody second-guesses. I don't think any member of this body would like to be second-guessed, for all practical purposes, on everything they do in their office. If you do, put that in the bill, put legislative people in the bill. We have, over the past 20 to 25 years in this country, in just about one area after another until we've covered everything, imposed systems where we make somebody else your guardian, your big brother, your keeper, your reporter, your watcher. That is what this does. There are existing systems within the laws now to address the objectives they have stated are the purposes of this bill. There are existing systems. This will create, as I say, a completely different social order when it comes to employer-employee. As I say, adopting the amendment is merely a way to "sweeten" the pie so it gets the votes, something I don't begrudge them attempting. I do advise you not to do it. So, for that reason, I'll vote against it and still hope the bill will be read today and will fail.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, and then Senator Warner.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I'm going to continue to vote against this reconsideration motion hoping that it fails so that the bill can be read today and fail. Senator Beutler, I preceded you as the Chairman of the Executive Board of the Nebraska Legislature. One of my obligations, one of my duties, was to look at the personnel rules that we have for legislative employees. The thing that I discovered, to my amazement, absolute amazement, were the number of benefits that were now available to state employees. I mean the number of days