

January 8, 1986

like the old rat asked the young mice, who said, put a bell on the cat so you will know where the cat is, who is going to bell the tiger?

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman. Next to speak are Senators Vickers, Nichol and Higgins.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, the lobbyists and lobbying has been mentioned here so I looked up in the dictionary this morning what the definition of a lobby, a group of private persons engaged in influencing legislation. Well, I have a lot of private persons that try to influence me in legislation because I have a lot of meetings and they are always talking about legislation. Lobbying to seek to influence legislatures in favor of some special interest. I had a man from my district walk in this morning and he wanted to have a meeting with a department...one of the state departments. He didn't know how to do it. He didn't even know if he could call over there or he just didn't know. So I made a phone call for him and set up an appointment. I was lobbied. Is that bad? Now, if the man would have taken me out for lunch, a constituent, is that bad? No, I don't think it's bad. That is what I am here for, is to work for my constituents and private persons engaged in influencing legislation. Well, you lobby every day of your life, Senator Beutler, Senator Wesely, and everybody else, when you say to your wife, for example, gee, there is a good movie on down town, don't you think we ought to go down and see it? Or, gosh, that football game Nebraska is going to play, if I can get some...two tickets, let's go, shall we? You are lobbying. You are selling somebody something. So you do it every day. The private citizens do it. Now, as far as the polls are concerned, we are going to have those ratings regardless. That doesn't bother me in the least. Now, what about when you are running for office? Are lobbyists going to be allowed to contribute to your campaign? Huh, I mean, where are we going to stop all of this? Is somebody going to take \$500 or are they going to be banned? Can they pick up the meal tab? What is going to happen in a campaign? Now, what about the Clerk of the Legislature, Lieutenant Governor, the Treasurer, the Governor, everybody else? Shouldn't they have a code of ethics if we are going to have a code of ethics? Why not? Their rating sometimes in those offices slip. So I just can't understand why somebody or someone or some people