

May 1, 1975

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It will bring down the standing, or status, of district 66. Senator Koch, I think, opposed that merger. Now some of the support that has been given for this bill has come from the Omaha Human Relations Department, out of City Hall, the Urban League of Nebraska, the Wesley House Community Center which is a Methodist funded operation, the Catholic Commission on Human Rights, and the parents have an organization, those who have handicapped children and they support this bill because they have been dealt with very unresponsively and arrogantly by the school board with reference to the welfare of their children. I'm going to try to wind up so I won't have to be sat down, but I have a chance to close if it's necessary. The thing I want you to pay particular note to is that the PTA and the OEA traditionally and automatically oppose this bill, not so this year. They would not take a position. When they move from outright opposition to no position, that means that they're becoming wise. They're not totally wise yet. They are wise but they don't have the strength yet. They know that this bill is not all bad. They did not oppose it. I ask you to advance 423 and that is the motion I'm making.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly. Oh. Senator Simpson has an amendment, Senator Kelly. Senator Simpson.

SENATOR SIMPSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it is a couple pages long. It would be far easier to just explain it than to have to have it all read. We could get the same results. My interest has been, for a long time, for district elections whether it be city council, school boards, or what in Lincoln, Omaha, or where else. I've thought on this behalf. It was brought to my attention that Senator Chambers bill had come out onto the floor and was before us. So I had a little amendment made up and brought it out for your consideration to put Lincoln in the same bill, class 4 school district. What this would do would allow that there should be at least 6 school board members, and there could be more from Lincoln. This number could either be decided by the members of the Board of Education now or by a vote of the people as to how many there would be. Then they should be split into districts and would allow the school board to split the districts. Then the people would be elected, either odd number - 1 two year period, then even the next for four year terms, or they could all be elected at the same time. We give them a choice in the bill which way they would like to go. I really don't have an objection on which way it could be. This would allow for the re-districting every ten years. Now the thing I would say in asking you to adopt this amendment would be I don't want you to do it if you would be doing it with the intent of trying to take from the bill and get support away from Omaha's portion of it. If you were not going to support Senator Chambers bill, then with this amendment on I wish that you would not help put it on. If you're willing to support the bill with Senator Chambers bill and the Lincoln amendment, then please help put it on the bill.