

February 27, 1976

Mr. Speaker, unless we can keep this membership in the Chamber, we are not going to get anything done. There are several Senators who have checked in and then checked out. Here we are. We are looking for more votes here. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, Mr. President, on motion to adopt.

PRESIDENT: The amendment is adopted.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: In a brief explaining of the bill, briefly explaining it, there has been some concern and we have made that concern with other utilities districts that service people, and there is either not representation or there is a lack of it. All of the people in my District appreciate being in the shadow of Omaha, and generally when we have an at-large election, the people in Sarpy County and half of my town is in the MUD Board, obviously we have no representation in terms of anybody from that area or the area in Papillion, LaVista or those areas surrounding. What this simply says is that we will elect one member and everybody votes on him. This one member is designated as the outside member, and I would ask you to increase the membership by one and designate him as outside the metropolitan city area. I have other purposes I could have used the bill with but this is a simple way to provide some adequate representation, particularly in times of tremendous duress as regard to gas, electricity, et cetera. I am happy to say the bill was voted out of the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee without an opposition vote and that Committee contains two members of the Omaha delegation and they have been most supportive. Almost all of the members of the Omaha delegation that I have talked to have agreed to support the bill. I would hope that you would do this for me and would move the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: I want to ask Senator Lewis a question. Now I want to know a little bit about the mechanics of this bill. Now is this the mechanics? Everybody will vote for everybody.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Everybody.

SENATOR SYAS: Even though this one will be elected from outside the city of Omaha?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: That is correct.

SENATOR SYAS: The people in Omaha will still vote for or against.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Absolutely correct.

SENATOR SYAS: Now what if it happens that you already have one person, I think, on the Board that is outside of Omaha, haven't you?