

March 3, 1983

LB 129, 542A

SPEAKER NICHOL: LB 542A advances. May I announce please that Senator Lundy has some guests in the North balcony. There are 14 students from Alda, Nebraska, in the fifth grade. With them is their teacher, Harriet Johnson. Will you please stand and be recognized. LB 129. Mr. Clerk, do you have something?

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 129 was a bill introduced by Senators Vard Johnson and Chambers. (Read.) The bill was read on January 11, referred to the Government Committee. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. On February 25th the committee amendments were adopted by the Legislature. I have nothing on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, are you going to carry it?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, since we had discussed this bill the other day, I will move for its advancement and if there are any questions Senator Johnson or I will be glad to answer them.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Is there any discussion on the matter?  
Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. Speaker, members, I would like to ask a question of Senator Chambers if he is around.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Maybe I should preface my question, Senator Chambers, with the fact that I do not have any problem with the concept of elections by district as being a good concept and has served us well in city council after it has been proven that it has done so and it serves us well, I believe, with regards the State Legislature and the House of Representatives. However, I do have one problem with the bill and Senator Vard Johnson gave out a list of what has happened over the past 80 years or so showing what has gone on with regards to elections of county commissioners in Douglas County, showing that we have vacillated considerably between at large and by district and the story behind it is that it has been fairly political and it has been political on a state basis. My concern is that not once during all this time have we asked the people of the county what they wanted to do. We have not asked the people if they want to be elected by district or if they want to be elected at large. Do you know of a situation where we have asked them about this?