

March 21, 1983

LB 308

a community cohesion on this issue, and since that time, they have come back and indicated that they are not pleased with the bill. Mr. Caporale again indicated that the City of Ralston is opposed to the bill. Now if that has changed, I would be more than happy to be knowledgeable of that fact but that is my impression at this time.

SENATOR ABOUD: Were there any other residents from the City of Ralston that were against this bill that you talked to?

SENATOR NEWELL: I have not polled the City of Ralston. The issue, as I understand it, was one that was discussed between you and some council members and there was no agreement, and they indicated to me, not only in writing but also by phone, that they were still opposed to the bill.

SENATOR ABOUD: So I take it that the only one that you talked to or that represented the residents of Ralston was that one person, Seb Caporale?

SENATOR NEWELL: I have talked to the mayor and he has also indicated that they are opposed to the bill. It was my understanding that both the mayor and the city council have indicated they are opposed to the bill.

SENATOR ABOUD: Those two people were the only ones then that...

SENATOR NEWELL: That is correct. I have not...Senator Koch was also at the hearing and spoke against the bill but I have not polled the people of Ralston to find out whether or not they are in favor or opposed.

SENATOR ABOUD: Okay, thank you. I would just like to simply state that during my campaign for the 12th District I talked to a number of people. I walked through the district at least this particular...in the city itself two or three times and there was a strong dislike towards this restriction that was placed on the City of Ralston. There was a strong feeling that they would like to be uniform with the other first class cities in this state. Presently there is 29 first class cities. 19 have the mayor-council form of government. 18 of the first class cities with the mayor-council form of government have four wards. There is only one city in the State of Nebraska that does not have the minimum four wards, which has two, and that is in the City of Ralston. I would say to you that I am probably the most knowledgeable person in this Chamber as to what the