

resolution.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you, Roger Dangerfield. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, after Senator Hartnett's introduction and some discussions I've had with other members on the floor about this, people view it as not a tremendously serious problem. In Sarpy County it is a bit of a problem. Maybe around the suburban areas around Lincoln, I do not know, or some other parts of the state. Prior to this last year it was merely an item of community identity and the desire of communities like Bellevue, Gretna, Springfield, Papillion, and LaVista to maintain their own identity. The postal authority of the United States is attempting to use a single zip code designation, Omaha 681 blank, blank, for all of the area around Omaha. It is a problem with these communities that want to maintain some separate identity. Although, as Senator Hartnett says, we are certainly pleased to be near Omaha, we do have a separate identity. Now let me get to the serious problem behind this. A number of other entities are piggybacking upon the zip code designation as a method of doing business. Our own State of Nebraska, for instance, in designating tourism money back to the counties from which it originated. Several Sarpy County hotels with this zip code designation, Omaha, they gave thousands of dollars to Douglas County. Senator Hannibal is looking at me and thinks that is probably not such a bad deal. But some of us down in Sarpy County didn't like that. Money had been misappropriated. Businesses who are on the outside of Bellevue, Papillion, Springfield, who want to advertise in the U.S. West Yellow Pages as a Papillion business, a Gretna business, a Springfield business, are told, no, we can't do that because you are not in the right zip code designation, we go by zip code designation and your address is Omaha. So a businessman, wanting to do business in LaVista, Papillion can't even advertise that because the Yellow Pages are using the postal authority. So all we are doing is asking you to join us in sending a message to the postal authority to promote a degree of autonomy within these suburban communities. And so far, to my knowledge, it is a Sarpy County problem, but it can be a problem around North Platte, a problem around Kearney, a problem around Lincoln, a problem around many of these cities that are growing and are becoming metropolitan areas in and of themselves. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, please.