

January 31, 1973

SENATOR SNYDER: Mr. President, Mr. President.

SPEAKER: Did you accidentally flip the switch on your mike there, by chance. Try it again.

SENATOR SNYDER: How about now.

SPEAKER: That's much better.

SENATOR SNYDER: Mr. President, members of the body, those of you who have been here for the past three years know my opposition to the various proposals regarding district election in my city. I don't intend to take much time on this matter. I would apologize that we have to come down here each year and in one form or another and have this thing hashed out in front of the entire body. I do believe that it is a matter regarding local control. The Legislature of the state of Nebraska gave the city of Omaha charter government and I think of all things contained within that charter for local control, certainly the type of elections is one of the most prominent features. Mr. President, I would like to go into great detailed discussion. I would imagine that there might be a couple of other people who will want to talk for or against my motion. I will cover some other points at my closing. Thank you.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Stahmer, then Senator Fellman, then Senator Goodrich. We are now debating the motion to indefinitely postpone LB 12.

SENATOR STAHMER: I'd like to pass now and then ask Senator Chambers a question later on about one part of the bill.

SPEAKER: You're passing for now, Senator Stahmer. Do I understand, Senator Stahmer, you are passing?

SENATOR STAHMER: Yes.

SPEAKER: Thank you. The chair recognizes next Senator Fellman.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Mr. President, members of this Legislature, I rise in opposition to the pending motion and in support of LB 12. I would like to point out to the members of the Legislature that I think in a very large sense the discussion of this public issue is as much an educational venture as anything else. An educational venture into one of the real problems many people within the city of Omaha feel exists in the present political system. And I think in this regard, a public discussion has not only been necessary but useful and more importantly than that, it is a discussion that has totally been lacking in public in the city of Omaha prior to this. Those who would argue that this issue was discussed at all fully last spring or last summer or fall at the time a dissimilar bill was on the ballot calling for split district at large election, those who would say that that had a full discussion at that time, I think, are failing to deal truthfully with voters and with people, in Omaha and in the city. There is another problem that bothers me a great deal about this motion and the way it has been handled and that is those who consider it a bill of Senator Chambers, a bill to put a black man or woman on the city council of Omaha, a bill oriented exclusively towards this minority point of view. It is not up to me certainly as a freshman Senator to guess how the Omaha delegation will vote, but I doubt very much that the Omaha delegation will be unanimous in its defeat of this motion. I strongly suspect that the other members of the Omaha delegation, all of whom are white, will include many people

(End of Belt #9)