

January 31, 1973

(Start of Belt #13)

we just defeated that issue two to one. Why should we constantly be put on the defensive when we want to fight. Mr. Chambers would have you believe that the entire make-up of Omaha's city government is wrong, that he is the only one right. I hope that I'm never in a position where I think the world is wrong and that I'm the only one right. Senator Skarda notes that the Omaha officials give Senator Chambers abuse, why shouldn't they, why shouldn't they, he is here to disrupt, he doesn't want to change the system for the betterment, he wants to change it for disruptive tactics. I've seen the operation of the district voting right here in this body, you can look upon select file and see an instance of it, we had this issue quite plainly this week, are we going to go with what's right and let Omaha have it's home rule, let Omaha decide how it's going to elect it's city councilmen, or out of spite are some members of the legislature going to say no. Senator Mahoney never ceases to amaze me in his consistency of arguments, I would remind you that this is an election year in Omaha, for city council and for Mayor and I'm quite certain, although not having talked to him personally, Senator Mahoney will have a part in the campaign in the city of Omaha this year. Senator Carpenter made reference to the fact that the establishment rejected him, that Mr. Kiewitt overpowered him, I don't think it was the establishment, as I read the results of the election, the elected or the registered voters of Nebraska rejected Senator Carpenter, not the establishment, so if you're going to put twelve councilmen in Omaha, you're going to have the district representatives almost in line with the Omaha delegation, it's going to be quite confusing and your going to get into this ward politics, that's an argument that I've made many times, I don't want to see Chicago type politics in the city of Omaha, and you have people who are afraid, you have people who are saying if you get it on a ward or district basis, then I can get in there and I can get me a couple people in these various spots. But at large, it's more difficult because the man running at large is able to devote his energy and to devote his messages to the electorate at large. So let's not provide low rolling for Omaha, and let's just be mindful that the citizens of Omaha, operating under a city charter, which provide for sufficient and adequate means of amending the charter by a vote of the people. Also there is a charter review each ten years, the last charter review again was recommended against the election of city councilmembers by district. They have the right of petition, the city council has said, we don't want to be bothered with this time and time again, but we will take Senator Chambers proposal, put it to a vote of all the registered voters of the city of Omaha. Only one member of this legislature from Omaha, had a district supporting the vote in November. Twelve were against, correction eleven I should say, by a margin of nearly two to one. I think the issue certainly speaks for itself, Mr. President, I hope that the members of the body will allow Omaha to maintain it's city charter, it's authority to govern itself in this procedure, and I urge that the members of this body at this time indefinitely postpone LB 12.

SPEAKER: The question before us is, shall LB 12 as amended be indefinitely postponed? All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote no. The chair would observe that this bill in order to be indefinitely postponed takes a simple majority of those voting. The chair would again ask have you all voted? The Clerk will record the vote. Senator Skarda is asking for a record vote.

CLERK: Record vote read. 12 ayes, 28 nays, 9 not voting.

SPEAKER: The motion to indefinitely postpone fails. We are back to you Senator Chambers what's your pleasure regarding the bill?