

March 2, 1973

(Start of Belt #10)

Carpenter amendment to the Carstens' motion will vote aye. All those opposed will vote no. You are voting on the Carpenter amendment to the Carstens' motion. Have you all voted? The clerk will record.

CLERK: 23 ayes, 5 nays, 21 not voting.

SPEAKER: OK. Now, the Carstens' motion is amended. We are back to Senator Carstens' original motion. Senator Carstens, do you have any closing remarks regarding your motion as amended. The question is, then, as the motion appears...anybody else. Is found on Page 716 of the Journal. Right, clerk.

CLERK: The Carpenter amendment is to strike the Fred Carstens' amendment found on Page 716 of the Journal and provide there.. in lieu thereof; To provide a Committee of two persons, namely Senator Fred Carstens and Senator Syas consult with the Attorney General to determine the legal possibility of considering the reapportionment of the Legislature.

SPEAKER: Right. Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President, members of the body, now that we have adopted the Carpenter amendment, I would like to point out to the members of this Legislature what they might be in the process of doing. The majority of the states in this country are urban states. The states are increasingly becoming urbanized. If differences are allowed that allow for a greater disparity than 1 man, 1 vote, and 1%, these Congressional districts and these state Legislatures are going to take advantage of this and push down the farmer even farther. There will be more urban congressmen in Congress in all of these urban states, and this is going to do...if anything works to the detriment of rural areas, this is going to be it, and this works both ways, and don't forget. The great majority of this country is urban, and if you are going to allow differences of 16%, you'll see 16% more urban Congressmen and I wish you would give this a lot of consideration, what you are doing, because I think it is going to work great to the detriment of the agriculture of this state and, ultimately, to Omaha and the entire midwest.

SPEAKER: Senator Mahoney, did you wish to be heard now?

SENATOR MAHONEY: Yes, Mr. President. I would like to make these comments concerning the discussion this morning. One in particular, I believe again that in this case Senator Carpenter is putting the cart before the horse. In this area here, we are just going right back again to discuss something that has been settled on this floor ten years ago, twelve years ago, when we had all the redistricting bills, but in particularly a point that Senator Stahmer just made. That over the years, there has been the same type of inconsistencies as far as urban and rural are concerned because I can remember in this Legislature, and Senator Syas and some of the others, when one of the legislative districts in the very rural part of our state had eighteen thousand people and at that same time before we got ready to redistrict, we had Senator Proud's district which before him was Senator Moulton, it had over a hundred thousand people, and for years we lived with that inconsistency and while we waited for the Courts to make the decision, there were bills and laws passed in this Legislature. And there were several of these eighteen thousand population districts while Senator Proud's district was over a hundred thousand, my district had reached eighty-five thousand, Senator Syas's district was above fifty thousand, and for a period of six years or three legislative sessions this was the type of representation that was taking place in this Legislature and laws were being passed for this state and so, therefore, I can see that this 16% that we are talking about is practically nothing and I think it is a great tempest in a teapot. This is