

## (Start of Belt #7)

they can put this before the people and if the majority of those people want this, it can be voted in now. It doesn't take an act of the Legislature. So, I'm going to shift the responsibility by this amendment and this puts the sole authority for adding fluoride in drinking water to the local governing board. I move adoption of this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion of the amendment? The chair recognizes Senator Marsh and then Senator Johnson.

SENATOR MARSH: Does this change the present law or isn't this the way it is right now?

PRESIDENT: Are you directing your question to Senator Lewis?

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Lewis, please. Would you yield?

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis, do you care to respond?

SENATOR LEWIS: Yes.

SENATOR MARSH: Does this change the present law in any way?

SENATOR LEWIS: The present law..

SENATOR MARSH: Or does this just say we don't need this law, you just want it left the way it is.

SENATOR LEWIS: This changes the present law. Presently,...

SENATOR MARSH: In what way.

SENATOR LEWIS: Presently, it takes a referendum of the local people. This would shift the sole responsibility to the local governing board and they could make that decision.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Johnson, then Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose this amendment of Senator Lewis. I don't think that the governing board, councils, would consider this question unless it was demanded by the citizens, and so, in effect, it would be just about the same as it is now. And I agree with Senator Lewis and I do not like to have things mandatory when it isn't necessary, but most state laws are mandatory. They affect our traffic laws. They govern our alcoholics, an unborn child, care of the retarded, and we just passed a law on Final Reading of Senator Lewis' in regard to retarded children and I voted for it. Inspections in all Departments of the state government are. Particularly of Agriculture and the Health Department are mandatory. They govern our nursing homes, our hospitals, and all their facilities, narcotics, drugs. The helmet law was mandatory. That was to protect mostly our young people or anybody that rode a motorcycle, but they are mostly young people. And at the present time, it is mandatory that we fix the teeth of the people on welfare, and that cost the state of Nebraska \$1,335,616 in '71, and I am sure it was much more last year and it will be much more this year. And so, this law as it is now without the amendment would eliminate two-thirds of the cavities in the teeth of the citizens of Nebraska and it is mandatory, but I think that this particular issue is blown out of proportion because as I say there is lots of mandatory laws that affect the health and people in Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Cavanaugh, then