

April 10, 1973

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President, members of the body, I think Senator Lewis has probably hit upon the crux of the whole thing. If fluoridation is such a wonderful thing, if you want to mass medicate everyone in the country when there is so much furor against it, why don't you leave it to the local board? What is so wonderful about the Legislature, 49 Gods sitting down here telling everyone what they have to do. Let those local boards take it. If fluoridation is such a wonderful thing, I don't think there would be anything wrong with local boards taking it. I have all kinds of mail, for and against it. My dentist never came out and tried to educate the people on fluoridation. They try to educate me on it. What they would like to do is to have us take it and make it mandatory upon the people to have fluoridation which they do not want. Many people have voted against fluoridation. Why they vote against it, I don't know, but they do. But now we are going to tell them, you are going to have to have it whether you want it or not and you are going to run it right down your throat, literally. I don't believe it. I think it is wonderful that we can leave it to local boards. If it is a wonderful thing for fluoridation, let the city councils take the heat or someone else. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President and members of the body, I would like to rise in opposition of the amendment offered by Senator Lewis. I would like to point out that there was an article in the World Herald, I believe, about six months ago that had a map showing surrounding states and, I think, with one exception, all of them had about 90%+ of their people getting fluoridated water compared to what is in Nebraska, roughly 50%. And here again, I think we are behind other states in the midwest. I heard one man from the health area speak and he said there are about 17 mandatory health measures now and this is the only health measure that we put up to the vote of the people. The question would be, why put up any of these things. If these health measures are necessary and the overwhelming majority of medical people think they are, I think it makes no more sense to put this to a vote of the people than any of the other 16 or 17 or 18 other measures that we require, and I don't think it's a question of taking heat. I think it is a question of doing what's right. I think this is what we are down here to do, to decide what we think is right and do it, and I think the right thing to do is to do what most of the other states in the midwest have already done, namely, to see that their water is fluoridated.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Kennedy, then Maresh, Chambers, Snyder, Carpenter. Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Very briefly, I rise to support Senator Lewis, again. I think if the problem is something good to sell, the local people can sell it and we have said that here many, many times and it is amusing for me to sit here and watch the that rise to support it that already have it. Now, we have many people that move out in to our small communities for a reason. They enjoy the pure air. They enjoy the pure water. Now, the discussion started with the milk influoridation and sometimes we who have our cows in the country and smaller communities, we do send that milk into the cities. Now, I don't know what is going to happen to that milk with that cow if she gets fluoridation. That seems to be a chemical reaction that is bad, so the dentist tell us. But if this is true, there is not very many cows in the city of Lincoln or in the city of Omaha, but there are a lot of cows out in the community that will partake it if we force this fluoridation in their water. So, if that is a possibility, that is one to consider but with the Omaha and the city Senators that already, and they really have some problems and we try to agree with the outstate,