

April 10, 1973

or a city council or any other governing body. We know that pressures can be brought to bear on people who run for elective office in a community and they would be afraid to introduce fluoride into the water if the scare tactics and high pressure salesmanship have been brought to bear. Senator Lewis, I think that in opposing your amendment you will understand that I am doing it in good faith and not out of vindictiveness but the next statement I make may make it seem that way and I want you to understand in front that it is not. There are some communities in Nebraska which are out of touch with the trends of this modern society, this modern world, and these particular communities have to be dragged, even if it is kicking and screaming, into the twentieth century. And with reference to, at least, one aspect of children's health, this bill is designed to do that. I would suggest that we defeat Senator Lewis' amendment and any other amendment which would, pardon the pun, water down this bill.

PRESIDENT: We have an amendment proposed here to Senator Lewis' amendment. Stand by, Senator Snyder, you are next to speak. Read the proposed amendment, will you please, to Senator Lewis' amendment?

CLERK: Mr. President, I move to amend the Richard Lewis amendment as follows: Read.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Snyder.

SENATOR SNYDER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this, in the often used words of the Legislature, is a compromise. I'm not sure, Mr. President, that it's entirely in order. I am going to have to ask for some guidance here, but I would like to make a few statements toward the amendment that I have proposed. I am more than happy to see some of my outstate colleagues come up this morning and use my term, that we are not ⁴⁹ God sends and I am glad to see that in a couple of cases they have been those that supported me in defending local control in Omaha regarding at-large elections as opposed to the Legislature imposing a different style on the people against the people's desire. Now, in the Constitution on Page 7, Article 3, Section 2, the first words are, The first power reserved by the people is the initiative whereby laws may be enacted by the people independently of the Legislature. Section 3 covers a referendum. Further back in the same Article on Page 12 under Section 18, there is what we refer to sometimes as the "laundry list". It says the Legislature shall not pass local or special laws in any of the following cases; that is to say, some of them are, laying out, opening, altering, and working roads or highways. Vacating roads, town plats, streets, alleys, and public grounds. Regulating county and township offices. Providing for the bonding of cities, towns, precincts, school districts, or of other municipalities. I've got to say this. I, personally, am 100% behind fluoridation. I, personally, speaking for myself, believe in the value and the merits of fluoridation. I, personally, voted for such in a city election when that proposal was before the people of my community. But, again, I am not going to pretend that I have all the answers for all the people of this state at all times, and I am going to say when there is an issue such as this, and I will say it right now, the same with abortion, that there is not a clear cut need, in my opinion, I am going to let the people have as much say as possible, and I am saying the same thing for fluoridation right now. One of my very best friends is an Omaha dentist and I might say to my knowledge there is probably a larger percentage in Omaha than anywhere in this state, and I suppose politically they would have to be considered a group of some power and certainly of some merit, and it may be that they will decide that I am not the person