

April 10, 1973

(Start of Belt #10)

this section of the Constitution was penned. The only disagreement I find with Senator Kelly's proposition that we say you will have fluoridation unless you vote "no" is that it puts those who are in majority, now, it puts them on the defense. And this is another thing that I have sensed in my tenure down here that I disagree with, that we let the minority determine, and it is kind of like what goes on in the news oftentimes, 99% of the people are minding their business. They are taking care of themselves and their families and it is the 1% that get the headlines. And I say, let us not let this carry into our governmental operation. If it is that good, let those who are the proponents prove that it is that good. Let's not take what is now the situation and say, all of a sudden, we are going to make you prove that you want it. No, let us do it the other way and say that you are innocent until proven guilty, not guilty until proven innocent. And that is the main difference between what Senator Kelly has said here this morning and what I am saying. We are both saying local control, but I am saying, make the people vote yes, they want it. So, Mr. President, I would close with that remark and move for the adoption to LB 449.

PRESIDENT: The question is shall the Snyder amendment be adopted. All those in favor will vote aye. All those opposed will vote no. You are voting on the Snyder amendment to the Lewis amendment, 449. The question is shall the Snyder amendment be adopted to the Lewis amendment, and the chair would inquire if you have all voted. Have you all voted? I will wait for you, Senator Warner. Now, have you all voted? The clerk will record.

CLERK: 14 ayes, 21 nays, 14 not voting.

PRESIDENT: The Snyder amendment is lost. We are back to Senator Lewis and his amendment. Does anybody else want to discuss the Lewis amendment? All right. Senator Lewis, do you want to close on your amendment? Senator Lewis is now closing on his amendment to 449.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I've heard a lot of discussion especially the proponents. I'd just like to call attention to some of the statements that were made about the high cost of welfare, dental bills. I'd like to point out that most of these are in the Omaha and Lincoln area and that most of these are the elderly for dentures and this sort of thing. The full impact of the cost is not with the young, as has been pointed out. I'd also like to point out to Senator Cavanaugh that election costs which he made quite an issue of would not be a factor in this because the local board would make that determination as to whether or not we had fluoridation locally. There is one thing that hasn't been mentioned here and I think that you people who represent small towns should bear this in mind. I did go to the League of Municipalities to inquire about the cost of applying this to the drinking waters and they tell me that it would be about \$850 per well. Since many of these small communities have several wells, this is a cost that they should have a chance to consider at any rate, I think. And I would like to make some note of Senator Carpenter's remark that the people generally, and maybe I am applying this too literally, that people don't know what is good for them and that the Legislature should do these things in their behalf. I still would like to leave local responsibilities with local people and I would move adoption of this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The question is shall the Lewis amendment now to 449 be adopted. You all understand the motion. Shall the Lewis amendment be adopted. All those in favor vote aye. All those opposed vote no. You are voting on the Lewis amendment to LB 449. Have you all voted? Once again, have you all voted? The clerk will record.