

state system, remember that. Local control and local tax support are decreed to be desirable and are in the bill as now are. As Senator Carpenter stated now, as I understand the remarks made by the fiscal department, that under LB 581 we can rearrange the money that's available as provided by the Governor in his appropriation bill can be rearranged so that we can make it applicable to any number of districts including 5, 6, 7 or 8. Now what we need to resolve now and I hope we can do it and I think we should be willing to go with the majority voting and not take a lot of debating and whatever the majority says we'll have, 5, 6, 7 or 8 districts. I think this is the important thing, that we move ahead on this and get all the counties assigned and let's go by the majority of the vote and I think we can adopt it in short order. I will, however, vote for the five-district area, or for the five-area concept.

SPEAKER: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I'd like Senator Warner to yield to a few questions.

SPEAKER: Senator Warner- yield to questions?

SENATOR WARNER: Yes.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Senator Warner, in dividing the state into five districts, what was the logic behind the method of division in the partitioning of Rome here?

SENATOR WARNER: Well, there was four general things taken, five things taken into account, to some extent where counties had voted already to establish in some instances we also took into account student numbers, we took into account the tax base, we took into account how many administrative units really was needed and one other thing...

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Let me, let me, let me address myself to a couple of questions...

SENATOR WARNER: Oh, the locations of the institutions with some idea of distances that kids have to go.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: All right, let's take those one at a time. Now under your five-district plan, numbers. The Omaha area would have in excess of 500,000 people involved in that one district, is that correct?

SENATOR WARNER: Yes.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: There's 338,000 in the Omaha school district, 173,000 in eastern. Now that constitutes about 42% of the state in one district, I think. Now I don't understand that. So numbers must not have been a criteria. To have five districts and then put almost half the state in one of them. The second point, tax base, and I would say that eastern has a tax base fully capable of sponsoring their program. The point I'd like to address myself to after looking at the criteria is this-- number one, this Legislature said to the people in my district, we're going to go full blast with community technical schools. Now you get into a district so that people in the eastern area of the state excluding Omaha in Washington, Douglas, Sarpy County and Washington County got together, went into a district by a vote of the people. We ran up and down the streets trying to get people to say, okay we've got to get into a district because the Legislature said we had to. Either we have to get into it or they're going to put us in one. And so we go around and say this is a mandate by the Legislature. We choose where we want to go. Either we go with Omaha or we get in and form our own. We have 180,000 people there which is the third largest district of the eight already. We have a tax base and the people