

(start belt #12)

that the Omaha school does not follow school district lines, there are several school districts in the city of Omaha that are parts of things. I think that we would do well to kill this bill and get on with some other bills and I hope that this would not become a personal thing. I have been quite consistent on my attitude on this sort of thing and I am making the motion now to indefinitely postpone the bill.

SPEAKER: Senator Goodrich and then Senator Chambers.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Members of the body I rise in whole hearted support of Senator Syas' motion to indefinitely postpone this bill. The reason I do that is number one, there is a process of settling problems in any school district. This process is in the process of being taken care of right now, and I would like to call the bodys attention to the fact that when the committee for example that was formed to solve, to help solve this problem, the committee has a membership of approximately a 130 people and the fact that some of the local organizations representing the black people of Omaha have chosen to not participate even in the committee, I would also call your attention to the fact that we have a school board in the city of Omaha consisting of nine people. Two of these people are black people so, if for example the situtation were and the motivation for the bill were to get black representation on the school board the bill has no meaningful purpose whatsoever, we have two black members out of nine members. If there are motivations other than that, which frankly I highly suspect, then naturally you need the bill, but frankly we don't need this bill and I support the motion to indefinitely postpone.

SPEAKER: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the first thing I would like to do is to correct Senator Goodrich's comment about the number of people on the school board. He said that there are nine, in fact there are twelve. So, I think that it is significant that we at least know how many people we are dealing with in an issue of this magnitude and this importance. He stated that there is not a need for a bill like this because there is a way to resolve these problems and he said that the way to resolve these problems is in court. I do not agree with that. WE know that it is a time consuming and highly expensive and it is a funny thing that now Senator Goodrich would say that issues are so grave that they need to be decided in court with reference to the Omaha school systems when last session he and others were inpuning my integrity and my honesty and my truthfulness when I mentioned the very existence of the problems that have subsequently been taken to court by the Federal Government because the Omaha school district refused to bring about changes. He stated that there has been in Omaha's existance of a 100 plus committee to solve this problem. There was no talk of any kind of committee or any cooperative effort by the school board to solve these problems prior to the institution of this suit. This committee has not been able to recently to gather a quorum and it was devised by the school board as a delaying tatic with reference to the Federal suit. Senator Goodrich knows, or he should know that I am one of those who councils the black people not serve on this committee because it is a delaying tactic. He also should know that people from time to time have been appointed by the school board from the black community. They are generally older very nice, innocuous people. The last one appointed was a nice