

January 17, 1974

in the past. They are strong personal and political undercurrents to his action that he took this morning. I want you to all be very much aware of that. He vetoed this same bill when we were out of session. The time before last year. The reasons he gave then, were that he objected to the method I used of amending a bicycle trails bill and getting this bill before the body in that fashion without a public hearing or going through a committee. He also declared that two Senator voted by mistake for the bill. Those were his reasons for vetoing it. Neither of those reasons existed in this situation. But something that does happen now that did not happen then, is the fact of an election year. I think that the Legislature must be jealous of its own power and of its own authority. Nothing in this bill relates to the executive branch of government in any way shape or form. It is a policy decision that was made by the Legislature and as Legislators that is our responsibility, that is our duty. It is not for the Governor to substitute a plan for election of the one adopted by the Legislature. He can not impose his will in that fashion on this body. If he wanted to help in the enactment of laws he should run for the Legislature. Since I'm in a position in my thinking now where I would like to execute the laws, I'm running for Governor. That may be the real reason for vetoing this bill. I wouldn't discount it as a reason. When the Governor declares that other cities, other school districts were not included in this bill, and that the only way to be fair would be to make the same law apply to all school districts. That is irrational, that is illogical, it makes no sense what so ever. School districts are classified based on their size and their make-up. That means that where circumstances are different. Different measures must obtain. It would be impossible to apply a law like this to all school districts in the state and the Governor knows it. Cities are classified on the basis of population. Counties for certain legislative purposes take population into account. So we know that in every area, where cities counties or other governmental subdivisions are concerned population is taken into account for the purposes of classification and certain types of legislation. There are a lot of reasons I could give you why I think you ought to override the bill. But the ones I've given you are the ones I think are the strongest. This was a legitimate exercise of legislative authority. The Governor as the executive made an improper intrusion into the legislative domain. I'm asking that you vote to pass this bill in disregard of the action taken by the Governor. There were 38 of you who stood by this bill on first reading. I'm aware of the kind of pressures that were brought to bear on all of you. Some of you stuck and some of you did not. I hope at least 30 of you will stick this morning.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion of the motion. Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: Well, Mr. President I feel that I should say a few words, and they will be very brief. Quite naturally I agree with the Governor in that when he said that district elections should be uniform and that's what I've been saying all along. So lets make them uniform and not pick out one class school district. We have an odd situation in the city of Omaha for your information. In the fact that there are 3 other school districts within the city of Omaha. And the Omaha school district has to do one thing under the present piece of Legislation and the other three do not, but there's