

January 17, 1974

PRESIDENT: The next to speak is Senator Savage.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Mr. President, I also rise in opposition in overriding the Governor's veto. I think the people of Omaha should be allowed to solve their own problems. I'm an introducer in one of the districting bills on the basis that I think everybody should be treated alike even if its lousy, and I want to be able to vote for the best qualified candidate regardless of what part of the city he or she resides.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Mr. President, I think we ought to get back first to the Governor's message, and what we're talking about and what we've been offered. Now first would say that I think the Governor of the State of Nebraska has a legal right to veto any bill which is presented to him whatever it might be. He has the moral right if he wants to do that. What does the Governor say. He says if you will do it to everybody, not just to Omaha, if you will do it to everybody he would sign it. That's there by emphasis. Not what if the other people doesn't want to override his veto, says if you would not override his veto we'll withdraw the four bills that puts it on everybody. Are you going to buy that kind of a switch? Now if you don't override the Governor's veto, then they've got these four bills, and they ought to put them out here. We ought to stand up and be counted and not hide beyond and behind a devious method in order to preclude to anything being done. I'm going to vote to override the Governor, not because Chambers is black, not because Senator Stahmer has a very deep seated thing about what he thinks is wrong, but because I want it to apply to everybody. And if you don't override the Governor you are not to get anything. Now let them carry for it what they agreed to do, they said if you wanted this bill then we're going to put 4 bills in to satisfy everybody and that's exactly what happened, and that's the only reason I'm going to vote to override the Governor of this state in this thing. Look at ourselves, we're elected by district. There isn't anybody here that I know of except for exception of me that would just as soon be elected at large. And my position would only be because I have the notoriety of the point that everybody knows the name Carpenter not necessarily me, but they know it and that's what makes people to vote many times. Let's be consistent to the extent we can. We've done it to ourselves and now we ought to do it to Omaha, and we ought to be able to do it to everyone. I'm not against pressure of course there's pressure in this thing. But let's call it. Let's override the Governor's veto and not because of anything in the message or anything because of Senator Chambers because he believes in the philosophy of breaking it down, and so do I. But let's put it on everyone because if you the override the Governor, if you don't override the Governor this whole issue is dead. And that's a cowardly way to avoid the things that many of us said we want. Now it's a good way to accomplish what they are trying to do. And that's the first thing they offer. Don't override, override the Governor, for example and we withdraw these bills. We don't want the issue to apply to anybody. But we use that method to fit it in to apply to Omaha, and I think that's a bad thing to do. And I'm going to vote to override the Governor veto for that reason because I believe everybody, school districts cities, counties, should be elected by districts like we are.

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