

February 26, 1974

often says, they are technical, they can be resolved. They are a matter of drafting. The issue is not the question of the technicalities of this bill. The issue is whether this Legislature wants to perpetuate gerrymandering that goes back to the original plan of Mr. Jerry in Massachusetts. When he drew a map of Massachusetts, and drew districts, and these districts that went helter skelter picked up his name and we today have a vice that we call gerrymandering. It seems to me almost unconscionable that we would set up a system that affectively blocks participation. It seems to me that this is a matter that should properly be brought for debate before this Legislature. Now is the time to do it because the bill as conceived, and if it doesn't do this we should change the bill and it's technically. The bill would not have any affect today on the vacancy that exists. The time to solve this problem is when we are not dealing with a vacancy. And when we are not dealing with specific individuals who want to have a seat on the Supreme Court. We can now deal with it in it's..terms of principle and in terms of the abstraction of those principles rather than the politics of a particular candidate. One of the concerns, I am told, among the members of the committee was that if we open the debate on reapportionment for the Supreme Court, we could at the same time be opening the debate for reapportionment of certain legislative districts. It would seem to me that we can discipline ourselves well enough to limit this debate and this bill to it's proper subject, which is in equity in the structure, the district structure of the Supreme Court. It would seem to me that it is not proper and could easily be a matter of our own self discipline to eliminate problems that some might think exist in particular legislative districts. It is wrong it seems to me to refuse to bring this bill to the floor, and refuse to let it have debate from the entire Legislature, merely because there are those who feel that this might open a Pandora's box, and we might spend the rest of the session debating apportionment of Legislative districts. That isn't the issue. The issue is whether we want to continue a malapportioned gerrymandering Supreme Court. That the members of the court themselves through their representative have said is incorrect, and should be changed. I would hope that this bill can be read, so that it can be debated, so that it can be amended, if necessary. And' so now while the issued is fresh, while it is relatively free of personalities, it can be passed in a correct form. It seems to me that this is a necessary act that the Legislature should undertake at this time.

PRESIDENT: The motion is to advance to General File notwithstanding the action of the committee LB1033. The first to speak is Senator Waldron, and then Senator Carstens and then Senator Nore, Senator Syas, Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR WALDRON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I rise in support of Senator Fellman's motion. I believe this is an issue that needs to be discussed within this legislative body, and one that needs to be acted upon this year. So we can place it upon the ballot to if that is what needs to be, or to reapportion those districts if that will solve the problem. A number of years ago I introduced a constitutional amendment that would have let us select our Supreme Court Judges from any where in the State o f Nebraska. Not limiting it to any specific