

February 26, 1974

I would agree with Senator Syas that this is not an appropriate time to redistrict in an election year. I think the redistricting of Legislative Districts should be done in non election years, when people have not already committed themselves to legislative race, and when the constituents of the various legislative districts are not already anticipating a legislative and the participants would be members of the existing districts. I think that we should certainly do that in non election years. By the same token I think that we should approach the problem of the Supreme Court at a time when we don't have a vacancy or crisis of changes in the Supreme Court. We should do it at a time which is now, quite appropriate, and we can look at it coolly and rationally and decide what an equitable distribution of the seats and we can clearly recognize that the present distribution is inequitable. And we would continue each of the members of the present court until the expiration of their terms, and so we would not disrupt the present make up. But I believe that we have to act before there is a vacancy and this the most appropriate time to do it, and I would urge that this bill be raised from committee.

PRESIDENT: The Chair wishes to recognize Senator Kelly and then DeCamp and Chambers and Waldron.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. LB 661 redistricting bill of the Legislature and LB 1033 certainly are tied together. A colleague of mine in the Legislature is asking for relief for a minority group, in the city of Grand Island it is not being adequately represented. On the basis of the can of worms, that it would open, the committee killed this bill, and with the arguments that were before the committee I changed my vote to assist in laying that bill to rest. Now that's redistricting. And we won't do it for ourselves, we're being asked to redistrict the court when regardless of the words on the paper, the emotion of the testifiers at the committee were that they did not want to do any redistricting of the court at this time. Now we can rely on the time factor is that they are in favor of it. I'm sure you can rely on the time factor that we are in favor of redistricting the Legislature. And if that be the case, settle it on time. The court doesn't want it now. Obviously the Legislature doesn't want it now. Let's leave this bill where it is, let's leave 661 where it is, or let's take them both up and stop fooling around with redistricting. Let's just do it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burbach, HAS Asked unanimous consent to be excused for the balance of the morning. Any objections? If not, so ordered. Senator Burbach. The next person to speak is Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I am not going to talk on the merits of the bill itself. Because I think there's something more important, at stake right now in the Legislature. On the day that the article came out in the newspaper in which it said this bill was killed. I read six other articles about bill that had been killed and statements from their sponsors including myself on another bill that the committee had errored gravely, and that they were going to make a motion on the floor to raise the bill. Since that day