

February 26, 1974

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I will be brief. I think this bill is important. I think a great deal is at stake this morning, to use those words of Senator DeCamp. But I'm not looking at the issue that he brought up. The members of the committee acknowledge that there has been gerrymandering in the construction of the Supreme Court Districts. The court itself acknowledges this. We as a Legislature are supposed to be concerned with justice. And some acts only symbolic as far as producing justice. We have no way of saying that because we properly district the Supreme Court, better and more just decisions will come from that body. But as the Legislature we can assume our responsibilities and do everything within our power to help facilitate the proper administration of the laws. If everybody can sit here and acknowledge or here it acknowledged by those who know that an injustice exists. And we say that this is not the time to correct it. Then I say we ought to pay heed to the little song that says Justice deferred is, justice denied. I am not going to attribute nobility to one side of this dispute, nor will I attribute infamy to the other side. But I will say this, if an individual has the conviction about an issue, and wants to act, that individual must act while he or she has the power to do so. Some members in this Legislature who have an interest in this bill are not going to be here next session. But while they are here, I think they have as much right while they sit in this body as anybody who is going to be here twenty or thirty more years to bring up any issue that they feel is important. Any issue that they think they are a responsibility makes them require to do something about. I don't see the advantage of procrastinating, and if the greatest argument against raising this bill, will take time to discuss it, I think that is the same as no argument. I just want to say one thing about gerrymandering. Most people know that that means jockeying the lines of districts. But the purpose of it is to take one area which may be relatively homogeneous in its outlook, and divide it amongst several areas for that particular voting strip will be deluded by having it separated in three or four parts and it will not be strong enough for it to have any sayso in any of the parts that it is been placed into. Omaha is not going to have four judges in the Supreme Court. I would not say that would not happen because a Governor is too intelligent to make that decision. There a lot of things that Governors do as well as legislators which would make this question, not only

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the good judgement, but sometimes the sanity. Senator DeCamp, as far as bills that put people on the spot or in a box. He's gone too. Sometimes people are gone even when they are here. Bill that Senator DeCamp thinks of his that are not worthwhile he cannot characterize everybody else's bills the same that he characterizes his. I have two bills I'm going to try to raise on the floor. I intend to use every legitimate legislative means to accomplish the goals that I came down here to accomplish. I'm in favor of districts of all kinds, when the number of people are so large that the only way each element in that group can have some voice is by districting, I'm for districting. Once there is districting, I'm for it being done properly.