

(start belt #5A)

in its class the Omaha School District is just a pretty good district. I said this in committee and I'll say it again. I don't know why when some people, a lot of people really, have worked hard to build up what they consider a first class school district that somebody wants to tear it down. Now it would make just as much sense, maybe that day will come, I don't know, but it is not here now when we will combine all of the school districts of the state. What is good for the goose is good for the gander. But this bill is not wanted by the public and in my opinion it has no merit and it is destructive and I ask you to vote this motion down.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fellman.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Mr. President, members of the legislature, I concur with Senator Proud and would urge the defeat of this motion. I have listened carefully to Senator Stahmer's explanation today and I have listened carefully to his speech before the committee and I have a great deal of respect for Senator Stahmer and for the goals that he speaks about. In fact, I share these goals. If it appeared that there was any realistic chance that these idealistic goals and hopes that Senator Stahmer talks about could in reality be met and a...a..by an act as simple as a merging of this district, I for one sure would support it. But there has been absolutely no evidence that these problems will be solved. This is not just one school district. We are talking about the school districts of Millard, part of which is in Omaha and the school district of Ralston part of which you know is in Omaha and all of the school district of 66. The Omaha school district itself has not said that it supported this. If they were here lobbying for this bill, possibly we would have better reason to give it serious consideration. There has been no grounds of an opinion and I would say that this is merely a device, this idea of calling for an election is an old thing saying lets give this to the vote of the people, which is a good idea in theory. Especially when people request that vote. If one can judge anything from mail, I would ask any member of this legislature whether they have received any significant constituent request in the form of mail or phone calls or anything else in support of this measure. I would guess that everyone who has received contact from constituents has received a great deal of opposition. We have been through this last year. It was killed. We have been through it again in committee and it was killed. This is the same measure and it deserves a to die a graceful death. Not withstanding the actions of the motion of Senator Stahmer. I hope that the matter is laid to rest for once and for all now.

PRESIDENT: Next will be Senator Nore and will the following turn off their lights, I have you on this list. Senator Dickinson, Cavanaugh, Marsh.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President, members, I have....it is very distasteful for me to have to stand up here and oppose one of my closest friends in this body, but I do oppose the consolidation of this district with the city of Omaha for the simple for several reasons. One reason is that in New York City they had one district, they were tearing the schools down brick by brick and it has got so large that this has gone way past the