

point of diminishing returns and so the Mayor, Mayor Lindsay put the city or split the city up into 31 districts. Now they are on the way to recovery in getting a reasonable school. At Los Angeles, I understand has been having to do the same thing. Historically, I have always been against large consolidations. We had the anti-trust bill coming up and it has something to do with that at least that is one of the... we have reached that point of diminishing returns so I would say that lets not....lets play this thing away very gracefully and forget about it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would support Senator Stahmers motion to raise the bill. Senator Fellman says that the issue has been here before and that we should kill it once and for all. I would support primarily Senator Stahmers promise to put this issue to a vote of the people. I think that Senator Stahmer has been a wolf for a lamb crying in the wilderness for too long. While the issue has been here a I don't think that it has ever been explored. I don't think that it has ever been properly addressed. We had one man who stood against the political winds of the time. The issue has been fought on the basis of emotionalism and not on the basis of what is quality education for the city of Omaha or Douglas County. I think that is the real issue and I think that probably the only way to have the issue fully explored is by putting it on the ballot for a vote of the people. Then I think that everyone that has avoided the issue and avoided the merits of the issue would be confronted of either supporting or opposing the proposition in front of the people. I think that in that way we would be able to explore what are the pluses and minuses and the deficiencies and the excellencies of the educational system that we have in Douglas County at the present time. I would think that the issue remains in this legislative body and it will probably die in this legislative body when Senator Stahmer leaves, because I don't think that there is anybody here, including myself, who would continue the fight. It is not a very pleasant fight to conduct in this body because what happens is that each session you have the entire populus of district 66 or a good portion of it descend on this Capitol and we all being good politicians respond to their outcry. I don't think that that necessarily indicates that we properly address the subject that Senator Stahmer raises by this proposition which is whether or not we are pursuing the course of truly quality education, and on an equal basis throughout Douglas County. Senator Fellman raises another interesting question that I think placing this proposition on the ballot would tend to provide an answer for. That is the position of the Omaha School Board and the Omaha Public School system. They have not opposed, or they have not supported this bill in the past, they have not lobbied for it. They also at least have not lobbied me against it. It seems to me that this indicates that they have a position that they are not willing to disclose or to stand on or to accept the public responsibility for. They have avoided the issue and I don't think that educators or the people that we charge with the responsibility of educating the children of Douglas County should be allowed to remain in a position of obscuring what perhaps is best for the children of Douglas County in the way of education. I personally don't know whether the merger of these school districts would be beneficial. I don't think that I