

March 5, 1974

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, I.....

PRESIDENT: May I just say here that after that is Senator, Dickinson and Stahmer. Senator Dickinson has talked once. And, of course, he can talk against Senator Stahmer. But new ones, and Senator Cavanaugh has talked, but a new one that hasn't had an opportunity to talk is Senator Mahoney. So I think I'll call on Senator Mahoney next and then go to Dickinson, Stahmer, Cavanaugh, in that order. Senator Kelly is first.

SENATOR KELLY: There must be trouble in River City. I've been on that Education Committee for these 17 months and all we hear is Omaha, Omaha, Omaha, Omaha. It goes on like a broken record. We need more tax money. We don't need that. We're going to change this. We need to merge the districts. We don't need that. Now, remember that when Omaha sneezes, Nebraska catches cold and Grand Island gets pneumonia. And I don't like it. Omaha is our leader and when it gets to schools, this Legislature has got to solve that school problem. And I think we ought to get into it and get into it strong. Through your wisdom two years ago, you appointed an interim study committee to look into the Omaha school question. They immediately took care of this by having word battles in the Omaha World-Herald and never had a meeting. I suggest we do it again but suggest we stay out of the Omaha World-Herald and stay in the meetings. And get to talking to these people down in Omaha. And get talking to them now. So that we can get some real definite input of what the problem in River City is. And then try and come back next session with something that will be workable and can go ahead and talk sensibly about what should be done with schools in Omaha. I do not believe that LB973 is the sensible solution. I do not believe there has been any sensible solution. If we hear this bill now, we'll just get some more rhetoric like I'm giving you and no solutions. I call for the question, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Question's been called for. Five hands? All right.....

(Machine turned off)

CLERK: 16 ayes, 6 nays, remainder not voting.

PRESIDENT: Motion loses, Senator Mahoney. Senator Cavanaugh, turn your lights off, you're on the list.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, Senator Syas, I.....finally acquiesce to your coaxing and I am speaking in behalf of the small delegation from Omaha that would like to have District 66 join us someday in a consolidated school district. I think that the Legislature should be put abreast of the fact that this is merely a vote of the people so we're not imposing.... we're not imposing any particular bill in this Legislature. We're bringing you back to where the decision would be by the people within the area that were concerned. And I say to Senator Stahmer that he has changed this from the original bill and so he has made it much easier, much palatable, to the people who are involved because in questions of this type, it should be the people who should decide it anyway. I want to compliment the boys of 66, which is Senator Proud and Senator Fellman, for two of the most eloquent speeches I've heard this session and to say to them both that knowing that