

March 8, 1974

PRESIDENT: Senator Simpson.

SENATOR SIMPSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I have an amendment to LB995 which is a controversial issue only to how a board should be set up. The Lancaster County Commissioners and the elected officials some time back started going towards a personnel policy for all of the Lancaster County employees. They've tried to work altogether in the area of what would happen or what should happen under this as far as the employees are concerned. And the philosophy has been very different. When they held a public hearing, I testified for the bill before them and told them I didn't exactly care what form but I thought it was important that we have such a bill for the county employees to give them protection when they have work changes in the agency heads... and in the commissioners. The amendments that came out on the bill are not satisfactory to some of the employees of Lancaster County and so they came to me and asked me to take some amendments. I didn't agree with the amendments as they had them set up and they went back and changed them and the jest of the change in the amendments is partially taking the power away from the County Board and setting it up a personnel policy board, has two elected officials on it, one of the county commissioners and one of the elected officials, a member who would come from the county employees, who would be voted on by the employees and two people not connected with county government who would be appointed by the district judges. Now, this is a philosophy and I wish to submit this for your approval or disapproval and hopefully the employees' system for Lancaster County will go through and it will not be stopped because there is a difference of opinion in the Lancaster County delegation. I'm sure whatever the Legislature as a whole decides, we will all support the bill after we get through in our attempts one way or the other. And we need the bill, I think that this philosophy is good and maybe should be adopted.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett and then Senator Marsh.

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I have to stand up here and oppose my good friend from North Lincoln...and fellow co-hort. These amendments that he has offered were tried in committee and they were denied in the committee and they are what we would have to call an effort by eight or nine elected officials in county government that have been in disagreement with the county board. Thirty or forty employees that work under these people have been trying their best to take the power to take the power away from the county commissioners which I might add is very small in Lancaster County. The majority of the employees that you don't even hear from want this bill adopted. The people that are under the elected officials today do not have any protection whatsoever. And the makeup of the board as it now stands in LB995 is a compromise from everybody concerned including the elected officials and including the employees that disagreed to the present plan in the bill. If you adopt this amendment, you put in the hands of Lancaster County Personnel Board a system which makes them responsible to no one. They have no responsibility and therefore I don't think it would be a very good idea to adopt them. I think that if you keep it in the hands and everybody's so worried in Lancaster County about being in the hands of county officials and of the county chairman, county board members right now that it is really hard to understand. I think possibly if we could discuss and these amendments by using the names of Mr. X, Miss X, etc., it would be a lot easier rather than getting