

March 13, 1974

SENATOR SYAS: Oh, they win most elections. I think they're stronger than the Democrats in Nebraska.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Well, I will not even have to get that part into there. I was just....I was going to say that, Senator Syas, you had a choice here a week ago and you did not run.

SENATOR SYAS: It wasn't for partisan reasons.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Senator Syas is a good strong....let me ask the questions and you'll answer as a good constitutional lawyer, you know that. Isn't it true, Senator Syas, as a strong vibrant Republican in Douglas County, then you should be up from the rooftops and from the towers shouting and yelling that a partisan Legislature is the only strength....

SENATOR SYAS: No, I'm.....

SENATOR MAHONEY: To bring the party back and to straighten out this Legislature?

SENATOR SYAS: No, I'm trying to save....if you really knew it, I'm trying to save the Republican and Democrat parties from a horrible mistake.

SENATOR MAHONEY: What is that mistake?

SENATOR SYAS: I'm trying to save my party.

SENATOR MAHONEY: What is that mistake, Senator Syas?

SENATOR SYAS: Because when we write into the Constitution that you must be partisan, you're disenfranchising...a....a....in the United States....I'm looking at it now from just a national.....a.....statistics. You're disenfranchising 33% of the people of the United States. We're disenfranchising over 30,000 people of the State of Nebraska.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Don't you think though, Senator.....

SENATOR SYAS: Thirty thousand people of the State of Nebraska. Well, make up your mind, you going to hang onto the mike or not? Now, let me explain the 30,000. There's over 30,000 people that are registered independent in Nebraska and I figure...feel that they have a right to participate in politics if they're not nobodys.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Senator Syas, have you ever had visions, dreams, inclinations to change to change to....be an independent?

SENATOR SYAS: No.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Senator Syas, in all of your answers.....

SENATOR SYAS: A Democrat either. That would be the last.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Senator Syas, Senator Syas, do you mean you disenfranchise in the particular 13th district that you represent? That you don't care for Democrats in that district?

SENATOR SYAS: I didn't say that.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Senator Syas, is your district 50-50 in registrations?

SENATOR SYAS: Close to it.