

March 8, 1979

LB 305

this amendment, bring this matter to rest once and for all. Thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Wesely, did you want to speak to return or after it is returned?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, LB 305 was introduced by the Education Committee on my behalf. The problem that we have in Lincoln and that is what LB 305 addresses, is that we set boundaries for the School Board for district elections in a manner that I didn't think was open and accountable and so what we tried to do in LB 305, it is a very simple bill, was try and open up the process, allow a public hearing and allow some accountability for making that decision, which I think is a very important decision, how boundaries are set for whatever district, school board or a council or Legislature, it provides some accountability in setting those boundaries. Well, now that was the basis of this bill and the reason that I rise at this point to speak to the George amendment is that what he wants to propose has nothing to do really with what LB 305 is trying to accomplish and I know that is not unusual for a bill to be dealing with several different subjects, but I would think that that would be not in keeping with the intent of what I had in mind with LB 305. Not that I object to Senator George's idea because I think that it has merit. I personally think that it might be the better way to go, but I think that it is the wrong way to go to recommit 305 to Select File and add the George amendment at this time and the reason I think that we should not do that is just a fundamental feeling that when we have something that is such substantial impact as the George amendment, we should require a public hearing. There should be public notice. People should know that this change is being proposed and they should have a chance to speak to it. That is exactly the point that 305 is as originally introduced, that people should have a chance to have input and that there should be some public accountability. That is my basic philosophy. I would hope that it is the basic philosophy of the members of the Legislature and I would ask you not to approve Senator George's motion to reconsider. Now at some later date some bill may be introduced, maybe next year that might look at this matter and at that time I would think that we could more carefully consider the proposal. I think it would be wrong, however, for us to do it at this time and I ask you to oppose the George proposal.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Chambers.