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LB 345

bill and I said, as a committee chairman I will let you testify because we in this committee will allow anybody to say anything as long as he is in between the proponents and the opponents and has a neutral position. He had a very good neutral position.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Keyes. I just wanted to be sure he didn't get hurt while he was riding the fence.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature, I would point out that Douglas County has five commissioners in a county that is 400,000 plus which is going to make districts of 85 or 80,000 people in each district. It would appear to me that that is the equivalent of running at large. If we desire districts in Douglas County with four hundred some thousand people, we certainly should increase the number of members to the Douglas County Board. A legislative district as you know, on the last decennial was 30,308. We recognize as people that run in districts of that size that we do know and represent that district but we also know that "we can handle that district". By that I mean that we can work for the people that are in the district. Should you be working for a district that have 80 or 90,000 people in it, can you any more effectively handle a district of that size as you could Douglas County in its entirety? Possibly the coalitions are easier to form on a five man administrative board rather than a twelve, fifteen member board that would tend to be a legislative board. Just what should be done in Douglas County certainly should be discussed in Douglas County but I would like to hear something from somebody, particularly Senator Newell, of the relationship of the huge size of these districts that would be placed for the members of the Douglas County Board. At this time it would be my intention to oppose this change.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, here we go again. Two years ago or so I believe we did this with the Omaha school board. Wasn't it? I believe at that time that the people in Omaha had voted as to what kind of an election they wanted but the Legislature said, no, people of Omaha, you really don't know what is best for you. We will do it for you and you are going to do it that way and we passed it and did it. Here we go again. I wish sometime Omaha would start handling their own problems and wouldn't ask us down here to do all this. Maybe they are not asking us to do this. Maybe