

March 29, 1979

LB 54

Senator Vickers, did you wish to speak to the committee amendments?

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, I did.

PRESIDENT: All right, we will let Senator Vickers speak and then we will have the close.

SENATOR VICKERS: I simply wanted to rise in support of these amendments. As Senator Cope mentioned, the number of independents in this state perhaps percentage wise is less than the percentage that we will be giving them in this amendment but I would submit to the members of this body if it wasn't for our primary system in this state, there is a lot more independents in this state than the percentages show at this point in time. I think the independents in this state probably outnumber either the Democratic or the Republican Party in truth.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Keyes for the purpose of closing on the committee amendments.

SENATOR KEYES: Well, Mr. Speaker, in a body that is nonpolitical I am very amazed that the statement that my very dear friend, Senator Marsh, made considering that back some thirty, forty years ago one of the most influential men in the State of Nebraska, our friend, Senator Norris, was an independent and certainly he was well qualified to represent and speak for the people of this state clear across this state. He is the one that has this body a single house. He is the one that is responsible for this body being independent. I can't understand why anyone would refuse to have an independent on the board. The Governor will appoint them and this body is going to decide upon the political accountability and so forth. I would hope that you folks would support four from the Republican Party and four from the Democrat Party because the two parties in Nebraska when you consider the independent are relatively even in their voting strength and in their numbers. So I suggest that you push the green button, get the amendment on there and then let Senator Cullan explain the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The motion is the adoption of the committee amendments on LB 54. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the committee amendments.