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LB 345

further politicize it down here, and overlook the true principle of democratic representation, I think is a travesty. We know in theory and we should make it fact that a governing body should be a small protraiture of the constituency being governed by that body. When we come through school we hear much talk of taxation without representation...

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and that simply meant that those people who were taxed had no sayso in the taxing. In Omaha now they have a tax problem, and if all areas of the city were represented on the City Council, perhaps I would have a different attitude toward that. But when you have a narrowly selected group of people put there by a narrowly interest group of business concerns, levying taxes, placing money in certain small areas of the city to advance certain interests to the detriments of everybody else, then I see that the method of putting those people into office is poor and defeats the ends of representative government. I think what Senator DeCamp is offering is nothing more nor less than destruction or perversion of the district method of election, and I'm opposed to his amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Stoney, and then Senator Johnson and then Senator Pirsch. Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I rise in support of Senator DeCamp's amendment, and I think one of the major points that must be made is that the city of Omaha and the County of Douglas, since it has a home rule charter, does have the opportunity themselves, and let me repeat, themselves, to make this change if they wish to do so. Now it's my understanding that in the past twenty years, that on four or five occasions we have gone either to or from district elections, and I think that this Legislature seems to have a preponderance to wish to involve themselves in the political election process in the city of Omaha almost on an annual basis. I circulated a couple of items that appeared in the Omaha World Herald...one most recently on March 28th, that deals with the local election issue. I have underlined some of the interesting points and would like to read for the record some that I have made. In the first or second paragraph of this particular document, it says one of the unfortunate exceptions is the Legislature's seeming incurable itch to meddle in local political affairs, which are none of its business, and I have a tendency to agree with this. Moving further down the first column,