

they cite an example of some of the problems and some of the politics, yes, the politics that can be involved in district elections. You can read for yourself what happened in 1963 on that Board. I think the important impact is provided in the last paragraph dealing with that election and what happened in 1963, and it's the comment that anyone who believes that district election does not bring with it gerrymandering, logrolling, vote trading, and other aspects of old-fashioned war politics needs a refresher course in political science. And ladies and gentlemen, I agree with that wholeheartedly. I don't think you could have served in the Nebraska Unicameral, which is elected by district, and not even in your short period of service for those newly elected experience just exactly what is referred to in that comment. Moving further down, it says in 1972 sixty-five percent of the voters in a city election rejected a district voting plan. Six months later seventy percent voted against a proposal embodying a similar concept. Last year a compromise proposal, which would have involved nominations by district, and election citywide, was voted down fifty-seven to forty-three percent. Now this is what Senator DeCamp is offering in his amendment. If the Nebraska State Legislature wishes to involve itself in the politics of the city of Omaha and Douglas County, please then give them the alternative of electing these individuals in the primary by district, and then at large in the general. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the body, one of the things that we have heard in discussing local election bills, LB 345 and the election by district of the City Council of Omaha, and other local election bills, is we've heard it said so many times that somehow this Legislature has no place in dictating to a local government and the local voters that which they can or cannot do. Somehow it's an improper encroachment upon local control. But I submit to you today that we have as much place involving ourselves in local elections as we have had over the years with local taxation, such as allowing a city to levy a sales tax...such as allowing a city to continue a sales tax...such as setting a lid on property taxes, and the like. Why do we have such an interest in those kinds of issues? With the tax question, because local taxes affect the state tax base. With the election question, because in the end the state of Nebraska wants to maintain the integrity of the political process. It is