

April 2, 1979

LB 345

the guardian, the watchperson, so to speak, for our Democratic rights. We have a vital interest to insure that every person in the state above the age of minority is enfranchised to make certain that their votes do count, to protect the basic integrity of our decision making at the polls. Therefore, I can wholeheartedly support state intrusion upon a supposedly local matter, because in the end electoral politics are not local. Electoral politics are you and me and the state of Nebraska, and we have every right in the world to be involved. Now I think we all know in our hearts that district elections are the most effective way for the electorate to elect people accountable to their needs. District elections means simply that the electorate from a given area know who his or her representative is, can deal directly with that representative, can have that representative run interference with county problems, with county concerns, and the like. District elections are a sine qua non for good government in the state, and I personally will be very pleased when the day comes when virtually all elections in this state are district elections. District elections mean good government. They mean involved government and they mean the citizenry really has an effective voice in having the kind of representative that they want on our boards. I would urge you to reject the DeCamp amendment and to support the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Members of the Legislature, I rise in support of the DeCamp amendment. Our County Board has bounced back and forth for various political reasons differing in nature. Much of what Senator Stoney has said I agree with. However, I do have a tendency to favor district elections because they give a defined representation. The people living in an area know someone that is supposed to be representing their area that they can go to...a name that they can come with their problems. This seems to me the best of both worlds with the amendment. It gives each district a representative and yet it still gives the entire citizenry a chance to have a voice on the entire Douglas County Board. I support DeCamp's amendment. If it is not... if it is rejected, I shall have to reject the entire LB 345.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.