

April 2, 1979

LB 345

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, I've talked to a number of people on the floor. Through the debate I've heard a number of other Douglas County senators who have talked about this. For that reason, and not in total agreement with other cosponsors of the bill, I favor the DeCamp compromise. I do so not because I think it's right, because I clearly think the district elections are...ought to be straight and pure and therefore would rather see the straight district election concept, but I think at this point that there is a need for compromise. We don't need to continue to debate this bill, that once we do adopt the DeCamp amendment, that we will find that the opposition is minimal, and for that reason I'm willing to accept the DeCamp compromise. It does a little of what I want it to do. It does a little of what is right. It allows for people in Douglas County to find their representative...to be able to talk to their representative...to be able to hold that representative accountable, so that they can watch what their representative does, and so forth. I think it's... it is a compromise. It doesn't make it as clear, as clean, but I will support the DeCamp compromise. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, what I came to know about government I came to know from sitting in American classrooms being taught about representative government. I learned about justifications for revolution based on what America did in taking action against England. I remember that one of the Kennedy brothers as President said, those who make peaceful evolution impossible make violent revolution inevitable, and when you take the people who have everything their way and allow them to determine who should be in office and whose votes should count, then you let those disfranchised people know that they have no viable method by which to influence the government. When I talk about a vote, I mean something more than an X on a piece of paper. I've said this over and over, a vote must be a meaningful voice in the outcome of the election. There have been many federal court decisions based on the right to vote, and I don't believe the Legislature takes these issues very seriously because many of the senators are not aware of how crucial the right to vote is, because it's something they've always had and been able to take for granted. But when you find people where sixty percent of the young people may never be given the