

April 2, 1979

LB 345

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: All in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. The motion is to adopt the Kelly amendment. We've already ceased debate. Have you all voted? We're voting on the Kelly amendment. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? I'm going to call for the vote, Senator Kelly. Clerk, record the vote.

CLERK: 15 ayes, 21 nays on the adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion lost. The amendment is not adopted. Have you got another amendment?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Kelly now moves to amend. Senator...

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kelly, do you have another amendment?

SENATOR KELLY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. This amendment would create twelve districts in Douglas County to be represented by districts, and the point being is that the advantage of district elections and representation by district is so that quote "the little people can get elected". Now with five districts in a 450,000 population county, that's 90,000 people in a district, and that's a big whale of a bunch of people. It takes in Kearney, Grand Island, Hastings and Columbus, and then maybe a little bit in between like Alda and Podunk. It would appear to me that if it's an advantage of district elections, which at various times I have agreed that there are advantages in district elections, the districts should be small enough to whereby truly it will tend to be a neighborhood election to put people on that district on the County Board whereby they can campaign effectively with their peers in quote "that end of the county" without having to do it countywide. Now with just five districts again in Douglas County, truly any candidate for a district would be running countywide and may...will have to campaign exactly as you would now at large. Divide the county into smaller units, then you will be able to campaign similar to what we do in the Legislature, which truly becomes a district, a neighborhood campaign that most any member in this body can handle.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, and then Senator Chambers and then Senator Simon. Senator Newell. We're speaking to