

to support the Chambers-Prisch amendment and I want to say that I think that Senator Chambers by accepting this amendment has gone a long ways toward making this issue just exactly what it ought to be. Many times people have thought that this issue was or confused it as a racial issue. The desire by some members of the Omaha community to put an individual of a certain race on the council. By making it a seven member city council the issue will clearly be district elections as opposed to any other outside purposes. I think that it was a very magnanimous, very courageous thing that Senator Chambers is doing. I wholeheartedly applaud it, it makes it a lot easier for this bill to become law and for that reason I thank him very much. I urge the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DE CAMP: I just want to get this clear now. You are bringing the bill back? Okay. Well God help you.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognize Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Regardless..thank you Mr. Speaker. Regardless what Senator Chambers does, I would like to read what the City of Omaha and the voters of the City of Omaha have done in the last three elections and I'm sorry that I wasn't here this morning to do it. On November 7, 1972 for the...it was to expand the number of council members from seven to nine and to provide that three members elected at large and six by district. The vote against that was 47,007 for it, against it was 85,046. On the 15th of May 1973 a proposal was submitted to the voters to expand the number of council members from seven to twelve. That also was defeated 60,399 against it to 24,780. On May 9, 1978 the same proposal was submitted to the voters, not the same one, but it was fourteen by district and to elect seven at large. The results of that election was 16,000 for and 22,000 against with 27,000 not voting. Regardless what we decide there is a court case now that probably will be decided in June or July, I don't know for sure. I think that this bill should be killed entirely. The fact that he is bringing it back for another amendment does prove that the bill is in trouble. There are people in Omaha that are against it and many, many people. The City Council is against it. I think that we should kill the bill and not attempt any more time to amend the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Reutzel.