

for members of the Nebraska Supreme Court and we ought to pass this and take gerrymandering considerations out. Now as you know, in the next year or two, we are going to be redrawing all of the Legislative Districts for the State Legislature and I would like very much to see this body establish a policy by adopting this constitutional amendment that we are simply not going to use gerrymandering as a legitimate political device and determine the future political course of the state. I think we should begin by taking the Supreme Court Judges out of the gerrymandering possibilities and then in the next two years we ought to work hard to see that no unfair gerrymandering takes place when the Legislative Districts are drawn. So for these reasons I would ask that the bill be advanced and if any members have any inquiries I will try my best to answer them.

SENATOR CLARK: The question is the advancement of LB 261. Senator Keyes, did you wish to be heard?

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, I have a question of Senator Hoagland. Senator Hoagland, you said that if a Governor should be elected from Omaha perhaps Omaha could receive three judges. Can you tell me how long it has been since a man with a residence of Omaha has been elected Governor of Nebraska? Is there anybody in the room that is old enough to remember back that far? I believe gerrymandering is one of the causes but I do believe that if we wait for a Governor to be elected from Omaha, if we get three Judges in Omaha, let's go with the way we have it now and we might arrive sooner.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Keyes, I am old enough but I don't remember. Senator Wesely. Senator Wesely, do you wish to speak?

SENATOR WESELY: Excuse me, Senator Clark. I was going to ask Senator Hoagland a question. We are talking about gerrymandering and some of the problems involved and I appreciate the situation. I guess my question is, the United States Supreme Court does not have any geographical boundaries. Is there really a reason why we need the boundaries in the first place? If we are going to have a constitutional amendment, should we not consider the possibility of just eliminating any boundaries and say pick the best men or women from across the state and put them on the Supreme Court? Is that a possibility that we ought to consider?