

March 13, 1980

LB 423

SENATOR CULLAN: Senator Goodrich, could you tell me how the existing Natural Resource Commission is structured?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Ya, it has got fifteen on it, one from each of the river basins, twelve river basins; one representing groundwater; one representing surface water; and the other one is a representative of municipal water users from any part of the state that wants to come on.

SENATOR CULLAN: Where is that individual currently from?

SENATOR GOODRICH: MUD, general manager of Omaha.

SENATOR CULLAN: That happens to be in Omaha, is that correct?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes, but it is no guarantee of it being there.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am not sure...I think I do agree that there must be adequate representation, there must be some representation from the City of Omaha, but I think we had better approach this issue a little more cautiously. If we are going to start this process and add one for Omaha, then perhaps we should add one from Lincoln and other urban facilities and perhaps we should change the entire structure of the Natural Resources Commission and that may be a way that we will want to go some day, but if you take a look at the existing Board of Health, there are fifteen members now on the Board of Health and people complain **on** the Board of Health and off the Board of Health that it is too large, that it doesn't work because it is too large, and all of those additions have come piecemeal, one this year, one a couple of years later, and I think we'd better be careful about just adding members to commissions and boards in this fashion. Maybe there need to be some changes but I think that at this point in time I could not support this type of an amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, I think probably all has been said on this that really needs to be said. For Senator Cope's understanding that Hastings and Omaha are a little bit different in size and the population. We in the Papio watershed would like to have somebody and have equal representation with you folks and I think there is