

March 13, 1980

LB 423

to four, Senator Goodrich. We need Senator Fowler, Senator Keyes, Senator Schmit, Senator Stoney. Do you want to proceed with your close? Senator Fowler, Senator Schmit, Senator Keyes, Senator Stoney. Do you want to go ahead, Senator Goodrich, and we will try in the meantime to bring in the three, Keyes, Schmit and Stoney?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Okay. Now, Mr. President, members of the body, I think it is time for cooler heads to prevail. I would like to restate just what the bill does for the benefit of those that were not in the room when it was explained. The bill adds one member to the Resources Commission that would be a representative, one person added to the commission to represent cities of metropolitan class which is Omaha and one only. That way we would have one person at least speak for twenty-five percent of the state. At least twenty-five percent of the state would have a voice. Now if the Governor appoints the municipal water user from Lincoln, Grand Island, Kearney, Hastings, Scottsbluff, Sioux City, wherever, Omaha would not have a single person on that. That is all we are asking is that you involve Omaha in the process, involve us. Let us become a part of your problems. Let you become a part of our problems. Let's break down the alienation. For example, yesterday on this floor we had a grasshopper bill. Did I say, well, we don't have any grasshoppers in Omaha so, therefore, I don't think I should vote for that appropriation. No, I didn't say that. I voted right along with you to help solve your grasshopper problems. Now all I am asking is that you let us at least have a voice, one out of the fifteen, out of the sixteen, rather, on the commission. It was stated, for example, let's approach this cautiously. Well, being here a year and a half, this bill has been here a year and a half, I think that is cautious enough, that is slow enough. Thank you, Sam. Now as far as the band aid approach to this thing, you are right. It is a band aid approach. We are not asking for twenty-five percent of the commission members. Hell, there isn't even one. The one that represents Omaha is 150, 200 miles away. Now I am going to ask you to vote in favor of moving this bill forward in spite of the fact that it is a band aid approach for a good solid reason and that is that if you can solve a problem with a band aid, why try to perform major surgery on it. If you can solve the problem with a band aid, why take a chance, for example, of a lawsuit, for example, that would say be based on the taxation without representation philosophy and disrupt the whole cotton picking works. We are not asking for anything but one voice on the commission. I am going to ask you to

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