

March 21, 1980

LB 743

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do have some discussion. When this amendment, when Senator Lewis' initial amendment to 743 was offered on Select File, I had some discussion with Senator Lewis at that time as to what effect it might have on Omaha School Districts and he assured me that it would have no effect. Now, of course, at that time, I didn't have an opportunity to read his initial amendment because it wasn't yet distributed but I have read it at this juncture and it seems that he was absolutely correct in his assertion, but now Senator Lewis has decided that we should amend the bill so that the effectiveness of his amendment is deferred until April of 1971, I am sorry, 1981. Now it may well be that it should be deferred forever. I really don't know. What I would like you to do for my benefit, Senator Lewis, is to explain the effect that your amendment as deferred, as deferred will have on Class III school districts and the growth policies of the cities in which those Class III school districts are located. Could you do that for me please?

SENATOR LEWIS: I will try to use as few words as I can because of some current limitations of my voice. The problem has been this, that first of all we do have some very ambiguous wording currently on statute, and I think you ought to know what that is, that there is currently a way, two ways for a school district to acquire territory as the city expands. If it is a petition district, that can be done by simply the school board taking it over and just saying we are going to do it. There is a ninety day negotiating period in there with the others and then you have a vote of the people in the district. I am concerned that, first of all, we have one way to do it and that is consistent and I think the most consistent way to do it is to allow the people that live in that area to be annexed to have the right to make that decision. If you have been down in the area I am talking about and that is to the southwest where development already is, now it is not a matter of trying to get where development is not, but as that city moves out of there, there has got to be some organized way to do it. Now the bill was just exactly the way I wanted it before Senator Keyes came along. Senator Keyes wanted a little more time in terms I assume for negotiating purposes and I am certainly not going to try to outmuscle my good friend Senator Keyes who has the same objectives in mind I do in that there be some kind of a reasonable approach to the school districts as the city expands and that is my purpose.

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