

March 27, 1980

LB 741

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a motion to overrule the Chair on his decision that the DeCamp-Labeledz amendment is not germane. May I speak to that motion now?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Yes, ma'am.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Okay, fine. As you all know I cosponsored LB 746 and was hopeful that that bill would be the only bill that would be involved in the council by districts and that we would get to vote on the issue which would have given the people of Omaha the right to vote on district elections. Both Senator Chambers and myself asked the Attorney General for an opinion and it was decided that LB 746 was unconstitutional. Because I felt and still do that this is a very important issue for the citizens of Omaha and to restore their faith and their confidence into this Legislature, we have put the amendment now on 741 because I accepted the Attorney General's opinion. We received an opinion then from the Attorney General stating that it was germane. What I am asking for now is 25 votes to overrule the Chair. We must and should consider the Attorney General's opinion that it was germane. Now we could go to a suspension of the rules, I know, and probably try for 30 votes. This is a very difficult thing for us to do knowing that amendment after amendment is now on 741. I have a feeling that some of those amendments will be withdrawn after we vote on this particular issue. We all know what happened to 882 yesterday. Each individual amendment, the way I understand it, Mr. Speaker, will have to have 25 votes if you are going to decide on each amendment that it is not germane. Some of those amendments I am sure will come off and I would even agree, Mr. Speaker, that you limit the debate. I don't have to stand here for five, ten minutes and tell you the people of Omaha want a right to vote. As we know the trend is changing. In the committee hearing, I told Senator Chambers that three times I voted for district elections. I told him to put it on the ballot again and I would vote for it the fourth time. I am not opposed to district election. I am opposed to this Legislature mandating. I urge you to give us the 25 votes to overrule the Chair so we can vote on the issue.

SPEAKER MARVEL: I would call this rule to your attention