

March 27, 1980

LB 741

the rules and adopt the following specific procedures and rules for this day with respect to the handling of LB 741: Read motion found on page 1573 and 1574 of the Legislative Journal. It is offered by Senator Labeledz and DeCamp.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion before the House is the suspension of the rules.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I really wish you would listen. The issue at stake is far more significant than Omaha district elections, far more serious. You have just had demonstrated to you which I am happy for and which we knew was going this exact way, you have just had demonstrated to you the most fundamental issue of the Unicameral and that most fundamental issue is do we have majority rule or minority rule. What am I talking about? If you will go back in the history of this Legislature any number of years you want to pick in the last seven or eight, you will discover, Senator Beutler, that the only way to get anything passed in the Unicameral in the State of Nebraska that has controversy is to suspend the rules, to utilize all the techniques that you can because our system is designed to turn it over to a very limited minority and any one of us that ever decides to do it can utilize that same system. Now if you accede to it, whether you are for district elections or against them, but if you surrender to it, if you surrender to it, it is all over. It means any clique of five, any individual can run this place for as long as he wants. Think back, medical malpractice, products liability, personal property tax exemptions, Omaha sales tax, litter laws, any of these, and you say, yeh, they are all bad laws. We disagreed with everyone of them, Senator Chambers says. They were bad laws so everyone of them we had to gut a bill, had to use this technique because our system is designed to allow a minority to control. Now I can pick any bill up there on Final, any bill you want, and I put up a hundred amendments. You try getting around me. That means one man controls the Legislature no matter whether you have 25, 27, 30, 40 votes. All Senator Labeledz has ever asked, all the people of Omaha have ever asked is whether, whether they get their shot in having a vote of the Legislature on whether they even get to vote on the issue. Our Constitution is theorized upon the concept of majority rule. All she asks is that you allow a majority to decide the issue one way or the other.