

for the Legislature to consider the fact that it is now in the process of considering changing the whole system after just imposing a new system on Lincoln two years ago. I think that we have to stop playing musical systems and let's let the present system remain in effect at least long enough for us to determine whether it has been an effective system, whether it has been a system that has benefitted the community. I have a number of items that I would like to discuss, but this seems to be a good breaking point. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I am a co-introducer of 784 and I had originally thought as I rose at this point to speak on the bill to call the question because of the time constraints that we have, but we have several other amendments up on the bill from Senator Beutler, we do have a motion to suspend the rules and to vote on the bill up or down so I think it would be more appropriate to continue with my reasons for co-introducing the bill. Give you some of the background further on the situation in Lincoln and ask for your support to 784. As a candidate for the Legislature in 1978 I was very concerned with a number of issues and one of them was the representation in my part of town on all levels of government. One of the things that I found, we don't worry about that any more Senator Schmit, but I got involved in a petition drive in 1978 to establish district elections in Lincoln for the City Council, at least for four of the seven members. At that time the City of Lincoln had voted several times before on the idea of district elections for the City Council and each time it had been defeated by the citizens of the city. However, in 1978 there was a noted contrast to the past and there was overwhelming support for the petition drive and then there was overwhelming support on the ballot for this establishment of a new system of district election for at least part of the members of the City Council in Lincoln. The feeling that I got from that experience and participating in that petition drive and then helping to lead in the effort to establish a district election of the City Council in Lincoln was that the people in Lincoln, by and large a majority felt that district elections would provide better representation at least on that level of government and from the feeling that I got it was a general philosophical commitment to the idea that big government broken down into smaller pieces of representation would provide better representation in government. So my feeling was that when this session approached and I looked at a number of issues that I wanted to get involved in that the idea that perhaps we could have a district election system for school board members in Lincoln would be a good idea. I'll be quite honest with you that past events