

April 14, 1980

LB 954A

in the energy bill and were able to provide the financing, almost a million dollars, through other means, we do not need I am told by the fiscal office an A bill, in other words, a financing bill for the energy bill. Because of this fact, I felt it would be proper that Senator Labeledz and others that were interested in the Omaha district election issue be afforded, at least afforded the opportunity to see if this bill could be utilized for the purpose of allowing the people of Omaha the option to vote on whether they wish to have their councilmen elected by district. Realizing that you are going to rule this out of order or not germane, Senator Bernice and I therefore offered a motion to suspend the rules to afford her the opportunity to have a vote on this to afford, of course, the people of Omaha the right to vote on the question. So I am making that motion along with Senator Labeledz. I am telling those of you who might be inclined to vote just to suspend the rules, this does not commit you to have to vote for the proposition itself but I do believe a half a million people of this state under a home rule charter should be afforded this same opportunity that Senator Chambers and others insisted be provided with such things as the Omaha sales tax and related items. So with that, I will turn it over to Senator Bernice on this particular proposal and you, of course, can read what our motion is.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After seeing what the suspension of the rules has done on the last three or four motions, this is like asking Santa Claus to appear on the Fourth of July but I am going to try anyway. I feel like I would be amiss in my duties as a representative of Omaha if I didn't keep trying. As you may recall last year it was the last day of the session that LB 329 was voted on on Final Reading in the morning. That was around ten, eleven o'clock. It received twenty-one votes so it did not advance. Later on after lunch for some unknown reason, and I received several reasons but never the right one, Senator Hoagland brought back the bill for reconsideration and the bill advanced and it got the additional four votes needed. There has been so much talk lately and written in the newspapers about the urban-rural split that we have in the Legislature but it is unbelievable that on my last motion that I got eighteen outstate Senators to support Omaha and I want to take this opportunity to thank them because they realize that the City of Omaha does have a home rule charter and that we should be able to put this on the ballot and decide for ourselves whether or not we should locally govern ourselves. I do have some apprehension about the Omaha state

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