

January 26, 1982

LB 359

Unicameral. Now, Senator Newell, if you will address yourself to LB 359.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am going to address myself to the problem and to the solution that is not yet affixed to the bill, the one that will be coming at Select File. Basically, the problem is simply this, we have had in Douglas County and, in fact, throughout the state numerous problems with SID elections. Now we all understand, or some of us understand what SIDs are and the problems that they have in conducting elections. They have a unique situation where residents and landowners vote as opposed to all voters in the traditional electoral system or electoral type process vote. Basically, they make decisions regarding the operation of the SID. Now what has happened in the past is simply this. The election commissioner or the county clerk in the various counties had the responsibility for conducting the election but not for the preparation and so a number of people did not get notice, a number of people incorrectly got notice. Notice was quite in advance of the elections and many people forgot them, etcetera, etcetera. So we are basically trying to deal with these problems so that we can put the primary responsibility in the hands of the election commissioner in Douglas County. And that is what the amendments that we will be offering on Select File will do. Originally, the bill was intended to deal with all SID elections, but at Senator Fenger's urging in Sarpy County they asked to be opt out of the bill for some very unique reasons and we agreed with that. So basically on Select File the amendments that will be offered will only change the election process in Douglas County giving that authority to the election commissioner to not only prepare the election but also conduct the election. One other little problem that is not so insignificant is many of you know SIDs pay in warrants and so they paid the election workers in warrants which sometimes were two or three, four years before they got their \$20 for the election, and so this whole process will give it to the county and the county will then pay in cash and then they will some day down the road collect the warrant...redeem the warrant from the SIDs and that will resolve many problems in Douglas County. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on LB 359? Senator Newell, I guess that is your opening and closing. The question then is the advance of LB 359. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

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