

March 5, 1982

LB 845

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 845 offered by Senator Vard Johnson. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 15, referred to the Education Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. I have no amendments to the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR VARD JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, this is a bill that is shrouded in a certain amount of state history. Central High School in Omaha is situated on Capitol Square at 20th and Dodge Street. Capitol Square was the site of the original State Capitol of the State of Nebraska. Capitol Square was conveyed by the State of Nebraska to the City of Omaha in 1869. The deed turned out to be somewhat faulty and so it was reconveyed in April, 1989. Now the conveyance of Capitol Square to the city says that the land is to be held by the city in trust for school purposes. Central High School occupies a number of acres of ground on Capitol Square. It has been there since the 1880s. Adjacent to Central High School is the Joslyn Art Museum. Central High School and the Joslyn Art Museum have made arrangements whereby the Joslyn Art Museum will convey to Central High School a parcel of property to be used for an athletic field and Central High School in turn will convey to the Joslyn Art Museum an equal amount of property to be used for a statuary garden. I think they have already got a statue promised of Leo Daly. It is an equal exchange of land. The title examiners who have gone over this conveyance have concluded that we need legislation to make certain that the school district has authority to convey the property that is a little portion of the old Capitol Square which has got that ancient deed restriction in it and that is all this bill does is it allows the Omaha Public School District to effect an equal swap of ground with the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha to in effect continue to accomplish school and educational purposes and to provide greater benefits to downtown Omaha as well as to all of the citizens of the state through the Joslyn Art Museum and through Central High School.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I just would like to say a few words in support of LB 845. The people of Central High School, the graduates association of Central High School has worked very long and hard to work out this real estate swap with the Board of the Joslyn Art Museum. The plans have been underway for several years. It is very much needed. This is a technical bill that would facilitate the land swap, the transfer of property. I ask you to support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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