

March 16, 1982

LB 688

SENATOR CLARK: The bill is advanced. We'll take up LB 688.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 688 offered by Senators Fowler, Landis and Wesely. (Read.) The bill was read on January 7. It was referred to the Education Committee, advanced to General File, Mr. President. There are Education Committee amendments pending.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch, on the amendments, committee.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, this issue deals with the election of school board members in Lincoln and the amendment we have is agreeable to the Lincoln delegation and I ask for the adoption of the committee amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Is there any discussion on the committee amendments? If not, all those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: The committee amendments are adopted. Now on the bill, Senator Fowler. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as a cosponsor to this bill with Senator Fowler and Senator Landis we agree to the amendment that we just adopted with some additional amendments that we think are important to maintain the fact that we do want to see this on the ballot in November. What we have essentially called for is local control and the question of whether or not school districts will change in the City of Lincoln in terms of how they are elected and what we are trying to accomplish is a change that has already taken place in Omaha where they are elected by district, trying to recognize that there are benefits to having a district election plan for election of the school board in Lincoln. This bill was introduced two years ago and because of time was not able to be passed which would have mandated a change. We've realized since that time and I think at that time we felt that it should be important that the people of the City of Lincoln have a chance to vote on this matter just as they did on the city council issue and so we are very much in agreement with the concept that a vote of the people of Lincoln should determine whether or not this takes place, this change occurs. So this would allow a petition drive to place on the ballot a change in the method in which a school board is elected in Lincoln, Nebraska, and I think the people in this city will probably support that because I was involved with the effort in the petition drive in 1978 which established a district election