

February 12, 1973

SENATOR CARPENTER: Now, does this bill apply to all school districts?

SENATOR GOODRICH: It is my understanding that it does, yes.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well, now, Senator, I don't want to be disagreeable in so far as you are concerned. There may be some need in the city of Omaha to acquire 50 acres. That's a matter for you people in that federation to determine. I can think of absolutely no reason in my district in Scottsbluff or any other district outside of Omaha, maybe Lincoln, who needs to acquire 50 acres. Now, you indicate also this is going to be a joint venture in some type of a recreational procedure which I don't quite understand. But, nevertheless, I'm willing to amend this bill or can be amended to apply only to the city of Omaha.

SENATOR GOODRICH: We considered that very thing, Senator Carpenter, and I was going to be prepared for an answer with that with the thought that alright if nobody else wants it, we'll just limit it to Class 5 districts which would be Omaha. And then, the expressions started coming in from Class 3 districts, though, and those are the suburban districts around Omaha and those are the ones that really want this bill.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well, of course, I'm only speaking for my district which embraces Scottsbluff and Gering. I don't think we want it there and I wouldn't be in favor even if they did want it and I think there ought to be some limitation because you will have these schools getting into the farming business, for example, in order to get benefits, if and when they are reinstalled. I just think outside of Omaha. Whatever your district is there I think it ought to be amended. I hope other Senators, if no one else had any objection to the bill as it is then I don't have any objection.

SENATOR GOODRICH: I would like to respond to that, Senator Carpenter, with the fact that no school is going to buy more ground than they need. For example, there is nothing compulsory about this. They can still acquire a site of 5 acres if they want and we're certainly not making anything mandatory about this. They can acquire only what they need but, at least, in those cases where we do have the need, they could meet it with this bill.

SPEAKER: The chair next recognizes Senator Keyes, then Senator Chambers.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. President, I'd like to ask Senator Goodrich a question. I wonder how necessary this bill is. The school district that I am in and I promise you this isn't Papillion, several years ago when we set out school house out in the country we bought 80 acres of ground. Now have we broken the law to such an extent? Our school district owns 80 acres of land. We have, probably, in the football field, the track field and in the sewer system for the school..we probably have 65 acres of this ground used, not in the educational building but in the plant and its site. So, is 50 acres going to make us sell 20 or 30 acres of our ground or are we going to be able to go ahead and operate as we have in the past.

SPEAKER: Senator Goodrich, do you care to respond.

SENATOR GOODRICH: The thing I would like to call to Senator Keyes' attention is this bill came to me from the people in your district and the only thing those people want to do is if they have a joint use agreement going, for example, they can't accommodate it on a 25 acre site. If they are going to meet the need down there for recreational facilities, they felt they needed this bill.