

January 2, 1974

been passed by the Legislature. And the Governor vetoed it after adjournment, so I didn't think there was a lot of new information that would be brought forth. Mr. Bernie Gyger from the school board spoke against the bill. A lady named Mrs. Russel Clark, a citizen of Omaha for the P.T.A. Council, she spoke against it. And Mrs. William Varner, the Omaha P.T.A. Council also spoke against the bill. They all stated that it was not necessary to have district elections, because everybody's interests were properly taken care of by at large elections. Mr. Gyger and Mrs. Clark, however, did state that main recognition is very important in an at large election. It's doubtful that the citizens know very much about the large number of candidates who run in an at large election. So they did concede that were members placed on school boards by means of districts. The people in the district voting for that individual would have an opportunity to know some of the traits, qualities and characteristics of that person and his or her ability to serve affectively on the school board. With these few comments unless it is necessary for me to rebut opposition testimony, I move that LB217 be advanced to E & R Initial.

SPEAKER: I believe that we adopted the ammendments, did we not Senator Chambers?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. I move that bill as amended.

SPEAKER: Is there a motion on the desk?

: Mr. President, didn't we have a motion by Senator Syas to indefinitely postppone LB217.

SPEAKER: Motion then is to indefinitely postpone. Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: Well Senators, I think this bill has been here several times before. I don't think it should be a racial issue, because on our present school board I think all races are adequately represented. I think that this is similar but not exact of what the people have turned down twice in some form on having our city council elected by districts. When it went to the vote of the people, I think that based on that the people would like to keep things the same. I would have no objection if this was put to the vote of the people, the school district of Omaha, and let them decide it. But I think we have a good school, I don't think the situation that Senator Chambers brings up about segregation has anything to do with this, because that's a problem in itself. And I don't think that districts or at large would make any difference of what happens in that particular case because as he said the federal government is in some form or another, and they're now having a committee look into this thing and studying it. No one knows the outcome at present of that. I imagine that if some things are shown to be wrong that they will be corrected. I see no advantage of electing people in the school board by districts, since the fact is as I say the people of Omaha have turned it down on the city council twice. I think they would do the same thing here. I know that you can constitutionally in the Legislature order the Omaha school district to do so. I think that if you go this route you should review all of them and see that all people get to elect in all cases instead of this cacus business. Deprive people really of all of them voting. I think there's nothing to be gained for Omaha here, school district and the children. Therefore, I would be against the bill. I must call to your attention that Omaha does not follow school district lines. There are several school districts

(End of Belt #11)