

February 26, 1974

district. This bill was soundly killed by this body. I think it was a mistake at that time. We need to get the best people we possibly can on the Supreme Court, and by limiting it to district selection we don't always do that. Also, by and Senator Fellman has explained in many cases the best jurists in Omaha cannot be selected to represent that area on the Supreme Courts because they are not in the right district. And I think this is a problem. We need to either enlarge the districts considerably as proposed by Senator Fellman, to have them with congressional districts. Or we need to select them from the state in it's entirety and do away with these petty little districts that we have in dealing with the Supreme Court Judges.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fred Carstens.

SENATOR FRED CARSTENS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I am a member of the committee, Senator Syas's committee that heard this bill. And we also at the same time heard the bill that Senator Kelly had introduced having to do with reapportionment of legislative districts. Senator Kelly is also a member of this committee. I want to support Senator Syas in the position he took. You can do what you wish. It makes no difference to me. This will not take affect whatever we do here will not take affect or have any affect on the present vacancy on the Supreme Court. Because unless they wait and wait and wait. But we cannot act in time to take care of this possible inequity. Now, Senator Kelly had a bill sought to redistrict only one district and that's his own or near his own. To correct an inequity that existed from the time we redistricted to the last time of the Legislature. Now we have on the board 26 days. 25 days left. And as of this date I don't believe we have passed a single measure in the Legislature or acted upon a single measure in this Legislature that is of any is significance. Except we killed a few probably. I realize that that doesn't include the good bills that I had passed naturally. But nevertheless we haven't done much and the big bulk of our work that is here has yet to come. We've got some pretty hot issues on that boards up there I can assure you. And if you want to take and open the Supreme Court redistricting, which won't take affect. Which couldn't affect the present vacancy, I don't believe. Then also it would no more than fair that we take up the inequity that exist in the legislative redistricting, such as in Senator Kelly's bill. Because this would be effective in the coming election, and the inequities that would exist there would endure for another four years, in those legislative districts that are going to have an election

(End Belt #7)

(Start Belt #8)

and we're reluctant to open up this whole matter of redistricting late in this session with an election year staring us in the face. Now I recognize there are some inequities there for example at the present time in the Supreme Court District. If I'm wrong Senator Fellman, correct me, but I believe Omaha could have three members on the Supreme Court, is that right?