

March 5, 1974

wanted it and I don't know where their backbone is. Maybe it ossified and floated away....but I can name the names of those who say (inaudible), we just don't want to stand out. Well, that's our leaders in Omaha. And why don't we have any leaders in Omaha. Why? Because they're so clustered in the corner of the city, the power structure. But the one thing everyone's losing sight of on this floor, the outstate senators, I know this is complex, we're not forcing together two cities. We're doing what....we're only asking what every other district in the state has, every city in the state, every town, every village has its own district. But only in Omaha are we split. Now, let's stop the baloney on this floor and that's exactly what it is. This is class legislation that was jammed down the throats of Douglas County before we had reapportionment. It is class legislation pure and simple. It is the only district in the state that has this configuration. And Senator Cavanaugh touched the key issue, quality education. In many of the schools in Omaha, we don't have it. We're left with the old people who don't want to vote any more taxes and I don't blame them. And who....the people with the children...the folks with children they move out to 66 and man, they vote the money like crazy. And we're left with the old people and the poor people and we call this equality, constitutional? Now, let's not walk down both sides of the fence. Let's either believe in democracy and let the people decide to have the same thing every other city's got in the state. Nothing new----nothing different. Or let's abide by the constitution and have equality for all which, by God, we don't have today in that city. And you're afraid to put it to the vote.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I, too, am surprised to see my two lawyer colleagues so vociferous in their opposition to this measure. And, Senator Proud voicing that our responsibility is to make all the judgments for the people. And, in fact, what he's saying is that we should make every judgment for all the people all the time because the people are dangerous and to give the people the opportunity to express themselves would be a dangerous thing. We can't control them if we put a proposition on the ballot.

(End of Belt #6a)

(Begin Belt #7a)

We cannot control the issue and the exploration of the issue. And whether or not it might disclose facts that would justify what Senator Stahmer has been addressing himself to which is quality education. And I don't think anybody in this Body heard either Senator Fellman or Senator Proud address themselves to a quality and quality education. They're not interested in it. They're interested in protecting exactly what they told you, the people, the parochial interests of the people from the districts they were elected from. And, I suppose that's adequate justification for their position in this Body. But it is not adequate justification for the rest of the members of this Body to deprive the people of the City of Omaha the opportunity to express their views on this issue and to fully explore this issue. And unless we have the courage to do that, to say to the people we trust you and we trust your judgment, and we're all a bunch of cowards, I believe.