

May 1, 1975

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Goodrich, does district election automatically mean you're going to be corrupt and a ward healer?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Not necessarily.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. I have a question and don't look at a crib sheet. Would you name me the twelve members of the Omaha School Board?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Sure.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Not looking at your crib sheet. You're putting it where you can see it.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Read names of school board.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Do you see, this is the man who says that so much is know when you elect at large and you can know all of the candidates when they run at large and sometimes it's 37 and he doesn't know the names of the people of the school board right now without reading them. The first thing he should have done in preparing himself to debate would at least know the essentials he's discussing. He should have anticipated that I would ask him that question, but he did not because he like the World Herald, thinks it's not essential to know who is on the board. How does he know what kind of a job they're doing when he doesn't even know who they are. Now Senator Koch said that the school boards at the local level are to set policies. According to the State Constitution, this is what it says in Article 8, Section 2, "The State Department of Education shall be comprised of a state board of education and a commissioner of education. The State Department of Education shall have general supervision and administration of the school system of the state such other activities of the Legislature made direct." And Senator Koch and Senator Goodrich, Section 3 says, "The State Board of Education shall be composed of eight members shall be elected from eight districts of substantially equal population as provided by the Legislature." The State Board which sets policy by the Constitution is mandated to be elected by district and if they are sincere in what they say, but they are not, and want to put the issue to a vote of the people, let them try to amend the State Constitution so that the board which controls all state policy in education in the state, be elected at large but the western people, no. That the only concentrations of population that could get enough support for one person to put somebody on the school board would be Omaha and Lincoln and there would be no representation other than from those heavily populated areas and Senator Koch and Senator Goodrich want the same thing in Omaha which is always obtained. I have a couple of other points. Senator Koch said, you people down here, and he said you people, I didn't. He said you people down here pick on Omaha. Why did you people, to quote him, take the tax off food? Why did you take the \$6.00 rebate off for Omaha? That's not picking on Omaha. There is a problem that Omaha cannot solve and it