

March 26, 1979

LB 345

of the questions that I have about this proposal have been addressed and the last point that I make I think is an important one. I do not think that the present members of the Douglas County Board, and I have no objection to those individuals, I think they are fine public servants, but I do think that there could be a more rational and objective selection of those boundaries rather than to allow those individuals to make that change. So at the present time with some of the concerns that I have I do not feel I will be supportive of advancing LB 345.

SPEAKER MARVEL: We have five minutes left on this bill. The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I just want to say very briefly that I support the bill, that districts have been recognized throughout this state at all levels of government from how Supreme Court judges are selected to school board members and it is necessary and essential that the state which creates various forms of government, I know the counties are recognized in the constitution, but which can determine how those elections will occur, should act in this particular instance to see that Douglas County is elected in the same way that other counties are which is by district.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, just very briefly, as a member of the Douglas County delegation of state senators, I rise to support LB 345. I think the reason is very simple and that is, I think we will have better representation throughout Douglas County if we know who these people are that we are electing. Senator Lamb, I can assure you. Right now in Douglas County I would bet that 90% of the voters in Douglas County do not know who their commissioners are and I think that to be highly unfortunate. Mr. Speaker, just one question of Senator Newell.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, do you yield? We have got about four minutes left.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Senator Newell, have you discussed the boundaries at all with the election commissioner? Has he drawn up a tentative district or district election of the county commissioners at this point? Has he given you any idea what the boundaries might be?

SENATOR NEWELL: No, he hasn't. I asked for that information. He said that it was difficult for him to do that.