

April 2, 1979

LB 345

objections were to occur in the general election, you would find out if you supported the DeCamp amendment that those individuals who had the most money, who had the most name recognition, who used the media most, could buy the most time, would be the ones that would win. It would not be based on issues. It would not be based on accountability. It would not be based upon a person presenting their views...his or her views to the citizens. The only difference between this and the current system is that you've eliminated it in the primary. The same negative results would happen in the general election. Well, Senator DeCamp, I very often do support your compromises, this one really has been prostituted. It is not a good compromise. I strongly urge you to reject the DeCamp amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, if this bill was good to start with why do we want to change it? The people I hear from Omaha say, let us handle it the way we'd like to. The only people that want to change or to dictate to us that it shall be by district are a few members in the Legislature. Omaha's no different than the locality in which you live. You like to govern yourself as to how your elections shall be done. If Omaha wants to do it one way, that's fine with me. If they wanted to do it the other way, that's fine. And doesn't it make sense that if we continue to dictate to Omaha how they shall conduct their elections, your community is next, and this Legislature will be in here next year, or the next year, saying, DeCamp in Neligh, we're going to do it this way no matter what the people in your district want...or Aurora, no matter what your senator wants, we're going to do it this way and we're going to dictate how you should do it, and you're going to have nothing to say about it. That's exactly what we're doing here. We're saying, Omaha, we don't care what you people want, we don't care at all. You're going to do it our way, and I think that's wrong and dictatorial. I oppose the amendment and later on I'll oppose the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise to support Senator DeCamp's amendment to 345. I've been around here a few years not only as a senator but as a former observer and lobbyist. In 1969, or somewhere