

January 15, 1980

LB 108

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, is there any objection? The bill is withdrawn.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, I am just going to make some very brief attempts to clarify what I think the issue is. Last year I supported Senator Landis when he was talking about the great principle and also because for a very practical matter the university professors who I listen to on occasion were very upset by the idea that this would be a statewide bargaining unit. Now that provision has been changed and I remain a pragmatist, a big enough pragmatist to know that when there is a certain amount of unanimity on an issue and where there are five people, and that is the total number of dissidents in Chadron State College, not one of the larger state colleges in the state college system, when there are a total of five dissidents who are able to bring the eloquence that Senator Landis brings to this issue, the great passion that Senator Landis brings to this issue, and the great desire that Senator Landis has on this very philosophical issue to say that the Legislature which had originally determined what bargaining units should be, should no longer be the case since now that is a prerogative of lawyers and courts. See, in no other state in the union is that the prerogative of lawyers and courts but in Nebraska we created the Court of Industrial Relations and that beautiful body, unique to Nebraska only, is only allowed, only allows lawyers to go before that body since it is a body of lawyers and consequently even when we change the name from court to commission we still have the provisions that only lawyers can benefit from any labor disputes that may take place in this state. In other words, a worker and management have to employ, both of them, a lawyer, in order to take forth this issue and that basically is what is happening. The State Legislature has been asked to try to resolve this, to try to simplify this to try to get things moving, on behalf of two hundred and forty employees at the expense of five employees. That is the concept which we call a majority rule. That is a concept that many of us say is a very pragmatic attempt to try to move things along and not have them remain in the courts forever and ever and ever, or excuse me, the Commission of Industrial Relations forever and ever and ever and that is exactly what is here. It is no longer a matter of principle. It is a matter of pragmatics. Principle is a fine thing when it is on your side and when it is not it is an evil thing and that is exactly it. What we are talking here is about a principle, since Senator Landis has a principle he is defending, not what is right in this case, not what most people want in

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