

January 30, 1980

LR 30

PRESIDENT: Round one, go ahead.

SENATOR NEWELL: All right.

PRESIDENT: Here he comes. He is up here to get me.

SENATOR NEWELL: Well, Senator Haberman's arguments are simply this, the District of Columbia does not have a state legislature. They have a city council and that council all you have to do is change the name, call it a state legislature. I mean there are ways in which we can deal with this and we will be granting the District of Columbia not only voting representation in Congress with a simpler majority but also...but also giving them full statehood which they have a right to and they deserve. With over 600,000 residents, larger than many states in the Union, they deserve that right to representation. Now some have argued that this whole thing is a political thing, you know, that the problem with granting the District of Columbia representation is that you are going to put two more democrats and not only democrats, they are going to be black democrats in the Congress, in the United States Senate...one in the House you will just get lost, but putting two in the Senate is the real problem with this whole proposal. And so I say to those people, you know, let's do just like we did when we admitted North and South Dakota. You know, the Dakotas was one state and they were going to be admitted as one state, but the republicans said, we need additional senators because we are losing our majority, and so what they did is they divided North and South Dakota and they had added two more senators and consequently we have done these things very politically before, let's do it politically again. I mean, isn't that the bottom line? Shouldn't we give representation? North and South Dakota together don't have the population of the District of Columbia, and consequently we ought to grant the District of Columbia statehood status. Give them equal rights. Allow them representation. For that reason I think that this is a preferable amendment. I have heard Senator Haberman and others yell that they are not a state. Well, let's make them a state. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I will call the question.

PRESIDENT: All right. Well it won't be necessary because there isn't anybody else that wants to speak. So the Newell opening is his closing and the motion is the adoption of the Newell amendment to LR 30. All those in favor vote aye,