

January 30, 1980

LR 30

CLERK: 30 ayes, 12 nays, Mr. President on the motion to suspend the rules.

PRESIDENT: All right, the motion carries. The rules are suspended so that now the motion to indefinitely postpone is before the House. Senator Marsh, are you speaking for the...who is handling the motion? Senator Chambers, are you handling it?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members...

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...of the Legislature, LR 30 is a resolution drafted in the negative. It is saying that representation in Washington D.C. which is called for by a joint resolution of the Congress and submitted to the states should be rejected by the state of Nebraska. As in many things, Nebraska is moving in a backward hunched-over posture trying to move against the tide of civilization, fairness and democracy. I must say these things today because as the only black person in the Legislature I felt kind of set-upon the last time this matter was discussed and debate was cut off before I had the opportunity to speak. I know of various other ethnic groups in this body, although there is a general classification of everybody being white, there are times when the groups is broken down into whatever nation their forebears hailed from and those people are usually given the courtesy of speaking on things that relate to them. There is no way that anybody in this Legislature could pretend that the issue revolving around Washington D.C.'s representation is really one of race. If, as a matter of fact, all the white powerful bureaucrats and politicians who control the government actually lived in Washington D.C. then nobody would be concerned about the D.C. vote issue. They would have the vote. I have heard some arguments that make me shake my head in amazement, except that I have listened to similar arguments on other issues by those who advocate these. I will give you one of them, that so many people in Washington D.C. work for the government, they shouldn't vote. How many people in Lincoln, Nebraska work for the state and the University system but nobody has said take the vote away from the people in Lincoln because most of them are white. There is no need for anybody to put their head down and pretend they don't know what I am talking about because when other issues related to poor and black people come up on the floor, the votes indicate the attitude of this body. I think you ought to consider some developments in Washington D.C. before you allow Nebraska to take this nonsensical pointless posture. Personally, I don't care whether you pass

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