

February 12, 1980

LB 261

subsequent to that redistricting but I say again, Senator Hoagland's statement that fifty-one members of the House of Delegates voted unanimously and he has said it repeatedly, is not a true statement. I am very much opposed to changing something that is functioning as it has functioned for the last hundred years quite well. Let us don't jump into something that does not need changing.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan, do you wish to speak to the bill as a whole?

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, yes, I do. Senator Newell has often accused me and perhaps appropriately so of being a very parochial member of the Legislature, taking a very narrow and sometimes a very narrow look at the interests of my own legislative district and I do try and do the best I can to protect the interest of my own district and the State of Nebraska. But when you speak of an issue of this nature which involves the functioning of the Supreme Court of the State of Nebraska, I think it is fair to look at the Congressional Districts and to draw the boundaries as Senator Hoagland and the Bar Association has attempted to in this particular piece of legislation. There may, in fact, be one less Supreme Court Justice some day in the future from the part of the state that I would be interested in protecting but I think when you are looking at an issue of this nature you have to be fair and objective. I think the bill is a workable one. I think that there should be a balance on the Supreme Court on the basis of population and geography and I think that this bill accomplishes that. So I intend to support this bill because I believe it is a step in the right direction for the type of political balance and fairness that we need in the Supreme Court in the State of Nebraska and so I would urge you irrespective of where you live in the State of Nebraska to support this particular piece of legislation. Senator Murphy has mentioned that there is no problem with the current Supreme Court. I would agree with him. I think we have an excellent Supreme Court and I think it functions very well but that doesn't mean that we should not make the kind of changes that will insure fairness in the selection of the members of the Supreme Court in the future. So I strongly support LB 261 and urge you to adopt a similar position.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hoagland, do you want to close on your...

SENATOR HOAGLAND: My motion to advance.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Yes, your motion to advance.