

March 27, 1980

LB 741

That is all we are asking today. If you vote to suspend the rules, we are not asking you to support the proposition or not. We do believe, we do believe it is the only method, unfortunately the only method. Now Senator Beutler and his colleagues had an opportunity to redo these rules to correct some of these deficiencies. Specifically left out were any rules that would have set up a system to correct one man's ability to hold up the whole legislative process. So as I said, whether you are for or against the district election, that is a separate issue, the issue is whether you turn the Legislature over to a minority. If they ever show they can do it once, it is going to happen again and again and again, and if other members find out that is the only way to function in here, the retaliation will occur. That will ruin this Legislature. I urge you to support the rule's suspension. I think the district election issue in Omaha is more critical at this time than repealing a law as to whether a horse can water in the middle of the street. That hasn't been a big problem for the last one hundred years but the Omaha district election is. All we are trying to do, as I say, is get a vote on the issue, a legitimate vote, and we would ask thirty of you to afford the other members, the other forty-nine, the opportunity to express themselves.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not too disappointed in what we did on the last vote. I myself feel very, very badly when I have to overrule the Chair and I have very seldom done that but this issue was very important to me as Senator DeCamp said. Yesterday we saw what was happening to LB 691 and LB 882. I feel very strongly about 691 but I did yesterday late in the afternoon put a motion up there to suspend the rules and vote 882 up or down because I felt that the charade had gone far enough. Now being on the opposing side to put a motion up there for LB 882, I was thoroughly disgusted with the time it was taking and the amendment after amendment. Now you know how I feel about this issue, how strongly I felt on 691, yet I was not going to be standing up here or sitting here waiting hour after hour while the game was being played. I don't do it myself. I don't often ask anybody else to play a game with me but this is no game. I need 30 votes to suspend the rules and then vote it up or down. Now all I ask is a vote on that Board on city council by district. Whether it is up or down, at least I will be able to go back to Omaha and face the people, over 71% that favor this vote of the people on district election