

March 27, 1980

LB 741

and over 72% of the people in my district that said in the last couple of elections that they opposed district elections. The trend is changing. I have never voted against district election. I am not here proposing it here now. I am opposing what the Legislature mandates constantly on the people of Omaha or the people of the State of Nebraska. We put an issue on the ballot and then we turn around and mandate just the opposite. I would like the people of Omaha to gain the respect and confidence of the Legislature that they should have had but don't have right now. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, the first thing I think ought to be brought out is the fact that LB 329 did not pass as a result of the suspension of the rule. Everything done with reference to that bill was done by the rules. I had LB 628 which was the sheriffs salary increase bill and there were a lot of amendments added to that and you heard me say that I didn't care how many amendments were offered I would not seek to suspend the rules so that people couldn't offer amendments. Senator DeCamp and Senator Labeledz not only want to gut that bill. They want to gut the rule book and have things their way and the way their lobbyists have done out there. Some of the Senators, and you know who you are, have come to me and told me that you have gotten calls in your office and about the heavy lobbying that is going on and we can see them trying to earn their money, and for that I don't blame them. In the same way they are trying to earn their money by hustling votes in any way they can, we have to earn our money by maintaining the integrity of the legislative process. Now when Senator DeCamp talked about majority rule and he referred to the Constitution, I am sure as a trained attorney he knows that the purpose of the Constitution is to protect the minority from oppression by the majority. He should know if he doesn't that the U. S. Supreme Court has said on many occasions that some rights are so fundamental that they should not be subjected to a popularity contest or a vote and one of these is the right to vote but what Senator DeCamp and Senator Labeledz want is to give the majority who have shown they don't want black people to have representation the right to say with a vote that we shouldn't have representation. As a fundamental right guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution and the State Constitution, representation is something which should not be submitted to a vote of people who not too long ago,