

sponsored by a group of people who I think have done some good things for Lincoln, but who have been very disappointed on the loss of the Havelock school closing. They felt that the school board wasn't listening. I felt that the school board had listened quite a bit, they simply didn't agree. In fact, it was a unanimous vote to close the Havelock school here in Lincoln. Now this organization, which has adopted the politics of confrontation, and makes no bones about it, is using another one of its tools of confrontation. That tool is to intimidate local public officials by going to the Legislature in trying to do something that would be very destructive from the point of view of the Lincoln School Board. If you go along with this at this time, you are really saying, you are really going along with this organization and its tactics. I think that you owe it to the idea of local control, I think that everybody believes in it here, not to intimidate local officials when they make difficult decisions. Again, I ask you not to suspend the rules on this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I guess I feel a need to respond to some of the things that Senator Beutler said. Let me say first that he talked about a specific school and that school is not in my district and it is not any sort of district pressure on me to bring this bill in. As long as I have been in this Legislature and before any single issue in the City of Lincoln, I have felt that district election in a community the size of Lincoln is in fact worthwhile for its school system. It is a position that I have held for years. It is what I strongly believe in and that is why I am willing to bring this bill before you again. Senator Beutler would like to make the issue certain people or certain organizations or try and turn it.... personalize it away from the question, the philosophical question of district election. I would hope that you would not fall for that sort of tactic. I would ask you to vote on simply the merit of the issue, I would ask you to suspend the rules so that we have an opportunity to vote on advancement of this question. I know a number of you believe in district elections for the City of Lincoln, I know that some of you may have questions about it, but I would ask even those of you who have questions about it to at least vote to suspend the rules so that those of us who do support the concept have an opportunity to vote on the issue. I would move for suspension of the rules.

SPEAKER MARVEL: All those in favor of that motion to suspend the rules vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: I would ask for the courtesy of a Call of the House and a roll call vote.