

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol, do you want to speak to the committee amendments?

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I wish to speak just to the one that Senator Beutler talked about. The reason for the bill in the first place is to accommodate counties with more than one city of the first class within its boundaries, and the reason we asked for the change from 5/6 to 2/3 was that you have to have the good will or the consent of the railroad or railroads involved in the first place, and we didn't think that since you would have to have the agreement of the railroad to start with, you wouldn't need quite that much percentage. I realize we are in a sensitive area but in this voting, this bill along with the one previously a year or two ago that provided for the districts in the first place said that the counties would have equal voting rights to the city or cities involved. In other words, if you had two or three cities, they could outvote the county. In this bill as well as the previous ones, the cities cannot outvote the counties in any way. So with the good will of the railroads provided in the first place, we thought that 2/3 would be better to accommodate those who may be absent from committee hearings. I still think it would be better to have 2/3 majority rather than 5/6 and they are both divisible by the number of members. For example, if you had a commission of twelve, we are talking about a majority of eight instead of a majority of ten. If you have a committee of eighteen, we are talking about a majority of ten instead of twelve. Senator Beutler, is it possible to segregate this one out and have a vote on it separately? I think it is the only one, isn't it?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Nichol, it is the only committee amendment so the vote will be on....

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes, okay. So I would urge your not adoption of the committee amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, Senator Beutler. We are on the committee amendments.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I just wanted to make a brief comment not substituting for Senator Kremer on behalf of the Public Works Committee but on my own behalf as a representative from Lincoln. We have a railroad transportation district here and it is a very touchy subject in the sense