

May 1, 1981

LB 310

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, as Senator Kremer is not here, I have been given permission to go ahead with this bill. We did hear it in the Government Committee. It has to do with the rural fire districts. The committee amendments, which I move we adopt, are technical amendments on page 3, line 8, that pertain to the petition of annexation. The new phrase is that the petitioner lives at the address indicated in the petition rather than...address indicated on the petition rather than within the boundaries of the district. I suppose in order to be knowledgeable about this we should talk about the bill and then adopt the amendments. LB 310 creates a new method of allowing a landowner to voluntarily have his land annexed into a rural or suburban fire protection district. Currently a land owner cannot have his land annexed if he does not live on the land. This bill will allow a nonresident landowner to do this if he wishes. The committee amendment is technical and changes the phrase that in the petition of annexation the petitioner lives at the address indicated on the petition and not within the boundaries of the district. So I move the adoption of the committee amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the committee amendments as explained by Senator Kahle in connection with LB 310. All those in favor of the adoption of the committee amendments vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to adopt the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The committee amendments are adopted. Now do you wish to explain the bill?

SENATOR KAHLE: This is from Senator Kremer's office and I am sure it will explain it better than I can. LB 310 allows nonresident landowners to petition the rural fire district for inclusion of the land into the district. Such land will be subject to taxation by the rural fire district and the nonresident landowner will not be allowed to vote. Currently such land contracts for fire protection services. This contractual scheme causes unnecessary difficulty and paperwork in operations, such as, the district must leave a contract fire to fight a taxpaying fire. In other words, out in the rural areas we have had problems before with certain areas not being in a fire district or certain areas that might call a fire department, especially a rural fire department, and find out later this fire department wasn't in the right district even and we hope this would clarify some of that. If you are a landowner and live, let's say, in the city or on another farm that is within a fire protection district, you