

March 4, 1982

LB 634

at killing this proposal. So for that reason I strongly, vehemently and most aggressively would urge you to vote no.

SENATOR CLARK: I would like to introduce two guests under the South balcony, Ardy Dahl from Scottsbluff and Kathy Webster from the great 47th District at Bridgeport. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, those of you who have had experience serving on the Urban Affairs Committee know what a headache it is to be whipsawed by the various classifications of cities, metropolitan, primary, first class, second class, and villages. Now I suppose it is necessary because communities are different in size and scope and for our statutes it probably is a wise choice to make distinctions although it provides a lot of headaches when you are trying to write laws. The Constitution, however, is a different matter. The Constitution is organic law and should hopefully be the law of all of the people in this state. With the Beutler amendment, LB 634 puts into the Constitution this principle of classification. Now I suppose it served us well in statutes because we can change them year by year. The constitutional changes, once they find their way into the Constitution, are very difficult to change. We have to set up a separate committee in this body with which to weigh the various advantages of different ideas in different classifications of cities. Aren't we really allowing ourselves a headache when we start saying in our Constitution which can only be changed by a vote of the people that we are going to promote classifications between communities and sizes of counties? It seems to me that we don't want to apportion powers of government in the Constitution based on population classifications along the lines of the Beutler amendment. The Beutler amendment is not intended to be sympathetic to the theory or policy of 634. It is basically a cut your losses, scorch the earth policy. If you don't like the concept of LB 634, vote against it but don't limit it in this fashion and think you are doing the people of this state a favor by hoking up our Constitution with a classification system that we all know provides us plenty of headaches as a legislative body, let alone the organic law of this state.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to support Senator Beutler's amendment. As a member of the Constitutional Revision Committee that heard this bill, I recognize the implications that it is going to have to