

April 6, 1982

LB 688

I think that people can support the concept of letting the Lincoln citizens decide for themselves what school board election system is going to be in effect for our city. That is what the amendment would do, place it on the November ballot and we are asking for your support.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Howard Peterson.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, it isn't often on this floor that I agree with Senator Vickers, but I certainly agree with him in this particular matter. It seems to me that it is really almost absurd for the Lincoln Senators to think that they can come in and circumvent one area of what is normal practice and that is if you want something on the ballot, you do it by petition and in this case it would seem to me I wouldn't object to our giving them the right of petition to vote on district elections, but I don't see why we should eliminate that one step for them. There is no rhyme nor reason for that to happen in this Legislature. I just think it is wrong. I think it is a lack of a Democratic process and I would certainly encourage the body to vote against the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Beutler, and then Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I just wanted to make a few things clear on the process that this bill followed. When this bill was introduced into the Legislature and it came to the Education Committee, the bill changed the Lincoln system to a complete by-district system. It didn't have anything to do with elections, it simply changed the system and Senator Warner and myself opposed the bill and went through a series of possible compromises and finally five of the six Lincoln Senators, Senator Marsh excepted, agreed that the amendment that is being presented to you right now is something that we can all accept representing different viewpoints in the community. There are very strong feelings both ways on this particular issue and there are very substantial elements of the community on both sides of the issue. So this was a compromise solution that we felt that we could all accept that none of us particularly liked. Now the only thing I regret about Senator Vickers' remarks is the indication that he was not aware of this at the point in time that it came out of the Education Committee. I don't know, it may well be that Senator Vickers was missing the day that we discussed this in Executive Session, but I did inform the Education Committee that this was the compromise that was envisioned, that the amendment would be put on on the floor, and that is exactly what has come about. So I just wanted