

February 14, 1991 LB 114

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The motion is adopted. I'll now recognize Senator Schimek for opening statement.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, this bill does four different things. First of all, it changes the membership on the Commission of Indian Affairs from, it changes three of the positions down to two for Winnebago, Omaha and Santee Sioux Tribes and it adds two positions for the Ponca Tribe. Now the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska was recognized by the Legislature in 1988 by resolution and it was federally recognized in 1990. By changing the tribal governments from three positions to two and adding the two positions for the Ponca, the percentage of positions from tribal government in relationship to urban and rural positions remains relatively unchanged. The second thing that the bill does is it changes the boundaries for the two western Nebraska commission districts. By changing those boundaries to reflect more of the same boundaries as those legislative districts out there, you then put the towns of Chadron and Scottsbluff into different districts which is good population distributionwise. Thirdly, the commission is removed from the Department of Economic Development and really what this does is then affords this commission the same status that the other commissions of the same nature have. And finally, it changes the per diem rate of commissioners from \$35 a day to \$50 a day. This change is being asked because there hasn't been an upgrade since 1971, for 20 years. I might tell you that members of the Ponca Tribe, the Omaha Tribe, the Indian Commission and the Department of Economic Development all testified in favor of this bill. And with that I guess I would just move its advancement. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. I'll now recognize Senator Pirsch followed by Senators Rogers and Warner. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you. I really have no argument with this bill, but I am curious and I wonder if Senator Schimek would yield to a question.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Senator.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Senator Schimek, we're reducing the number of