



Lt. Gov. Philip C. Sorensen

DEMOCRAT FOR GOVERNOR
STATE OF NEBRASKA



P. O. BOX 1926

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68501

Philip C. Sorensen Biographical Sketch

Family

Born in Lincoln, Nebraska, August 31, 1933; fifth of five children; married to the former Jan Lichtenberger; three children, ages 5, 2 and 1.

Education

Lincoln Public School System

University of Nebraska, College of Arts & Science

University of Nebraska, College of Law

Degrees: Bachelor of Science in Law, 1959

LLB cum laude, 1959

Honors: Editor-in-Chief of Nebraska Law Review, 1957-58

Winner Allen Moot Court Competition, 1958

Honors Convocations

Member honorary society Order of the Coif

Military Service

U. S. Coast Guard, 1951-54 (Korean War Theater, 1954)

Profession

Law Clerk to U.S. District Judge Robert Van Pelt, 1959-60

Partner in law firm of Flansburg, Mattson, Field, Ricketts,

Sorensen & Gourlay, 1960-65

Lieutenant Governor, State of Nebraska, 1965-67

Other Professional Activity

Instructor, University of Nebraska College of Law (part-time),
1960-61

Instructor, University of Omaha (part-time), 1965-66

Director, Lincoln Bank South

Civic Activities

Chairman, State Committee on Mental Retardation

American and Nebraska Bar Associations

Governor's Commission on Human Rights

Lincoln Chamber of Commerce

Lincoln Unitarian Church

Veterans of Foreign Wars

State Co-ordinator, Civil Rights

"A Time of Opportunity for Nebraska"

LEGISLATURES - TWO HOUSES or ONE

Philip C. Sorensen,
Lieutenant Governor
State of Nebraska

Outline of remarks before the Committee on Structure of the
Legislature, New Jersey Constitutional Convention,
April 21, 1966.

I. Reason for Current Interest in One-House Legislature

- A. Present-day concern with States not accepting their share of responsibilities or effectively dealing with current needs and problems.
- B. U.S. Supreme Court decision on apportionment of State Legislatures requiring both houses to be apportioned on basis of population, thus raising the question of why two houses if both are to be alike.

II. Why no Unicamerals Except in Nebraska

- A. Municipalities once followed two-house system, but it has of course disappeared. However, tradition of two houses on state level has remained and has just not been questioned.
- B. Legislators natural reluctance to abolish themselves together with lack of initiative and referendum in many states.
- C. General slowness of reform at state level.

III. Desirable attributes of a Legislature

- A. Representative.
- B. Deliberative.
- C. Open.
- D. Direct.
- E. Simple.

IV. How Unicameral Measures Up

- A. Representative
 - 1. Power distributed -- not concentrated in conference committee (or its equivalent) or in the masters of the two-house power structure.

2. Subject to proper, but not improper, lobbying methods.
3. Responsive to public opinion because subject to more public understanding and scrutiny.

B. Deliberative

1. Second house more often duplicative rather than a check or balance. Governor's veto, judicial review, initiative and referendum, and finally a knowledgeable public opinion are the real checks and balances.
2. Constitutional and legislative rules are what assure deliberativeness, not duplication.

C. Open

1. Crucial decisions made above-board, that is as a part of the legislative process.

D. Direct

1. Responsibility squarely placed.
2. No buck-passing to other house.
3. No dishonest action by one house through understanding with the other.

E. Simple

1. Understandable.
2. Economical.
3. Doesn't bog down by its own weight.

V. Nebraska's Experience

- A. Complete satisfaction.
- B. Has been representative of Nebraskans.
- C. Has provided leadership.