

In the legislative council the committee on territorial affairs reported, February 8, 1842, that Wisconsin surely had the right to claim admission, with her southern border on the line drawn due west from the southern bend of Lake Michigan, but expressed some doubt as to the expediency of demanding that right. However, they reported a bill referring the question of state government to the people at the next election, and a resolution inviting the inhabitants of the disputed tract to hold an election at the same time on the question of uniting with Wisconsin in forming such state government.

D. A. J. Upham of Milwaukee, one of the committee, was of a belligerent spirit. In a speech stoutly asserting the right of Wisconsin to assume jurisdiction over northern Illinois, he said: "Let us maintain that right at all hazards — unite in convention, form a state constitution, extend our jurisdiction over the disputed tract, if desired by the inhabitants there, and then, with legal right and immutable justice on our side, the moral and physical force of Illinois, of the whole Union, cannot make us retrace our steps."

In the house, the territorial affairs committee reported against any present attempt towards statehood. The legislature took no action on either report.

As the result of a meeting of the citizens of Stephenson county, Illinois, February 19, an election was actually held throughout the disputed tract, on the 5th of March, at which, of five hundred and seventy votes cast, all but one were in favor of uniting with Wisconsin. June 28, Governor Doty officially informed the governor of Illinois that the fourteen northern counties of the latter state were within the limits of the fifth of the Northwestern states established by the ordinance of 1787, and not, therefore, within the constitutional boundaries of the state of Illinois. He told his correspondent that the district in question was one over which Illinois was "exercising an accidental and temporary jurisdiction." The object of Governor Doty, in this letter, was to protest against the action of the commissioners appointed to locate the lands granted by the United States to Illinois, in making their selections chiefly within the Wis-