

SENATOR MARVEL: Senator Swigart.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Swigart, did you tell me this morning that you probably will get more invitations to speak now that the field of 63 for the City Council has been reduced to 14?

SENATOR SWIGART: I'm assuming that is true.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Swigart. When the field was large, there was no way to get to know that many people. Invitations were not extended. Television was reluctant because of equal time considerations. Some individuals wrote to the Public Pulse in the World Herald that the business groups that were inviting the better named wealthier candidates were not inviting them so the name recognition and prestige that these people had who had the inside track was being recognized as far as the invitations they got. Senator Stoney says that the majority are happy with at large elections in the county. He does not know that because the issue of county elections has never been put to the people and you would get the idea from listening to Senator Stoney and I'm not going to question him because I don't want to be a prosecutor. He indicated that it's a burning issue in his district, but when the issue of LB 63, City Council by districts was a burning issue before the Legislature and in the Public Mind, Senator Stoney called a townhall meeting in his district at Burke High School, one of the large high schools in the city of Omaha. The majority of the people who showed up were not even from his district. They were outnumbered about 4 to 1 and there were only about 30 or 35 people there period. But the vast majority of those were for district elections. So I would have gotten the impression that in order for me to come out to that townhall meeting as I did, I might need a posse comitatus to escort me pass the hostile lines of people. But there were very few there. I would venture to say that Senator Stoney in referring back to two very muddy watered elections maybe off the mark as to how his district feels about district elections now. But nevertheless they continue to confuse the City Council election with the county. Senator Stoney knows that when the City Council matter came up for a vote of the people, the first time was an attempt to have a hybrid election, part by district and part at large and I was one of the leaders at having that defeated. I went on debate; I was on television, radio, and everywhere I had the chance to have that proposition defeated. Because I felt a pure district plan should be voted on. When it looked like the Legislature would put in election by districts of the City Council, Mayor Leahy, other members of the City Council said we'll put it on the ballot then we'll snatch it off when the Legislature kills the bill. That was such a dirty play and I have the articles to prove it that they said they would leave it on anyway. But they got all of the former mayors, all of the former city councilpeople, the World Herald, the Chamber of Commerce, and everybody with a voice to speak against district elections. So the issue of district elections was not voted on. I was the issue during that particular voting and when the World Herald was taking polls some of the people stated that they were opposed to district elections because somebody like Ernie Chambers would wind up on the City Council. Meaning that people like me who can represent our particular interests and the entire city as I represent the entire state in this Legislature ought not have an oppor-