

SENATOR DUIS: I thank you very much, but I think this is going to be a concern as far as Senator Kremer and I are concerned of what may come in the rural area because this may be an impossibility. You wouldn't be able to get that number of people. I don't want us connected up too closely to this piece of legislation. You can understand my point. In a rural area we may only have 150 people living in quite an area, whereas they would have to compete against 1,000 or 2,000 as far as a large district was concerned.

SENATOR KREMER: One more statement, in answer to your question to me. We are not related to this bill whatsoever, because it's referring to class one. I say we need to start working on legislation. I would be glad to do that. Then we'll have to see which direction we can go.

SENATOR DUIS: Yes. I just didn't want to get us tied down to the point where we are involved.

PRESIDENT: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, question of Senator Maxey please. Senator Maxey, when you ran for the School Board did you have to campaign real hard to be elected? In other words, was there stiff opposition in your race for the School Board? Were there people trying to prevent you from getting on the School Board?

SENATOR MAXEY: Yes, there were. I believe we had 12 candidates running for three seats, two for each seat.

SENATOR MARESH: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, I would like to know how this concept of district election in Omaha is working out. I'd like someone to volunteer that supported, then someone who opposed. So let's have somebody that supported the legislation for districts in Omaha. Will somebody take that on?

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers will take it on.

SENATOR COPE: You have two and a quarter minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'll be brief, Senator Cope. What has happened is that a lot of people who never would have considered running for the School Board before, under an at large system, ran in the districts. There was the type of interest which had never been generated before because the people in an area could zero in on the individuals they knew, who lived in that area. These individuals had to talk to the people in that district, or they couldn't get the votes. In an at large situation there were certain parts of the city that could be totally ignored because the number of votes they'd get in the other part of the city would nullify those who voted against them. So what I'm trying to say, in a nut shell, is that there was a head-to-head meeting between the candidates in the district. Enough people could get directly to these individuals and attend their gathering to find out just what their positions would be on the issue. Also, as a result of the district election, an individual, at least one who had been returned to office year, after year, after year, was rejected by the people who lived in the area where he came from. Apparently, they were dissatisfied with what he had been doing. So I think that more interest was generated