

this is a relatively minor bill. Basically it just increases the number of school board members in the City of Lincoln from six to seven. That would make it correspond to the number of city council members in the City of Lincoln which number is seven. It would also make it an odd number. Our city council is odd, and our county boards are... (laughter) county board is odd too. You're getting your kicks today, aren't you guys.

SPEAKER NICHOL: At your expense.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The Legislature is odd, right. In any event, most of the community, I think, in Lincoln, and this bill was sponsored by five of the Lincoln senators, feels that we would rather have an odd numbered board. We did have a little incident last summer where there was a three and three tie on a particular budget issue for a period of time. It was finally resolved. However, it was the feeling of most of the community that we would have rather had an odd numbered board and not have had a deadlock for a period of time. The bill is no major bill, but simply a bill that reflects a clear majority, I think, of the Lincoln community and their preference for an odd numbered board. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Question of Senator Beutler I believe probably.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I notice that the only opponent was a gentleman representing the Lincoln Independent Business Associates. Did the amendments take care of his problem with the bill?

SENATOR BEUTLER: If I can make a rather elaborate answer, I think it is probably necessary for you to understand the context of their particular objection. We had a raging controversy going in Lincoln a few years ago, as you probably can remember, with regard to whether our school board was going to be elected by district or at large. This issue came before the Legislature, was not resolved by the Legislature. The bill did not go through. But then a