

groups, whether through money or politics, have a greater difficulty controlling an entire county if it is by district than if it is at large?

SENATOR MOORE: I've not formed an opinion on district elections as powerfully as I have on staggered elections.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Senator Moore, Senator Hall had a shoe he was going to offer for your appropriate utilization. (laughter) Members of the Legislature, this bill, even unamended, is a peewee bill. If you do what Senator Schimek wants to do, it's worthless. There is no point in it. It would be better to defeat her amendment and then vote the bill up or down. We're performing major surgery where major surgery is not even indicated. We have a frayed fingernail and we've called in consulting physicians from all over the state to determine whether we're going to remove the appendix, whether, if we correct a fingernail, we have to give a heart transplant, whether we might have to give a heart-lung combination transplant, remove the gall bladder, check for cancer of the colon and we're talking about a frayed fingernail, hangnail at the maximum. If you vote to kill this bill, it is not going to hurt my feelings. It's not going to make me any difference. If you...and I don't think this is Senator Schimek's reason, but I looked at that block of voters against the bill the other day. It doesn't make sense at all. Sometimes we will attribute to those who put certain provisions in the U.S. Constitution great wisdom, magnanimity and altruism. Senator Schimek, the reason the House runs every two years and the Senate every six years, and the Senate is staggered, is because the Senate didn't want to have to run the risk of being challenged by anybody in the House while they could continue to hold their House seat. So it had nothing to do with altruism or not wanting everybody thrown out at the same time. The practical reality is that all of the members of the City Council in Omaha are not going to be thrown out at the same time and there is no way that a single person who would run for mayor is going to, through his or her charisma, unite all of the various districts in the City of Omaha and that mayor is going to point out the people in those districts he or she wants elected and then the people in those districts will follow what the mayor wants, so that argument doesn't compute either. Nobody in Omaha running for mayor would be silly enough to try to dictate who should be elected from a specific district.