

in that time, I watched this body take Douglas County from district election of the commissioners to at large. There was a political reason for that, and we're now... we're now looking at the same political reason except it's on the other side of the aisle. This is nothing more than a political issue. At that time it was a Republican changing it from district to at large. This time it's a Democrat changing it from something else to at large...or by district. I'll support Senator DeCamp's amendment as a reasonable approach to nominate by primary and to elect at the general. That way all citizens of Douglas County will have an opportunity to determine those commissioners who are going to take care of the problems of the county both as urban aspects and its rural aspect. Senator Newell may be very candid here today, but he's not quite being totally candid. If I had my way, we would not even be moving anything on this bill, but would elect everyone at large in Douglas County, because generally those people who are elected to that board are pretty well known in the first place, and so running at large is really not as difficult, nor does it take huge amounts of money as some would think. Those people who spend large sums of money would spend it even at the district level because they like to see their names on big billboards, and that, indeed, does take money. So for us to sit here today and try to play around with Douglas County's elections again, I think is not in the best interest of this body. Senator DeCamp is offering an amendment which is reasonable. Elect them in a primary by a district and nominate them at large when it comes to who's going to serve the citizens of Douglas County. So I support Senator DeCamp's proposal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I want my comments to be in the record, and probably this is a discussion which many of the senators will not listen to, but I think that the district election method is the only appropriate method for insuring that each person's vote does count and has some influence in the determination of who will rule those people. Now when they talk about electing at the primary by district but then making the final determination at large, that does destroy the district concept. And although I'm sure Senator Venditte is over some of his heat toward me the other day, he gave the perfect example of what happens when you elect during the primary by district, then the general at large. You all heard him say that if the people