

intend to vote against the bill on Final Reading and the reason that I support this motion is because, as we went through the steps on discussing this bill, I became more and more skeptical of the merits of the bill, and I did have the opportunity to share those concerns with Senator Chambers just before we did do Final Reading, but I would like to have the opportunity, when we actually discuss the bill, to say what my concerns are and why I don't think that it will be of particular merit, at least regarding the terms and the staggered terms. So I think that we should reconsider this bill. I think, in all fairness to its sponsor and to the City of Omaha, we need to have that discussion on the floor of this Legislature. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Yes, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think Senator Chambers is correct in asking what the sudden opposition to the bill is and it's probably unfortunate that it did come so late and there was not a lot of discussion. My only idea...you know, I really don't care how they do it in Omaha except I see that trend, trends that start in Omaha sometimes have a way of creeping across the state. Some people think Omaha is the tail that wags the dog, but philosophically I have the problem of having all of the council members or the members of the Legislature or any governing body elected in one year where you could have a complete turnover. It doesn't make a lot of sense to me. It seems that staggered elections are better and it's not clear to me why we have special elections. Why don't we have these elections on the primary and general ballots? If expense is a problem, we should revamp the whole system so that we have a consistent system that is more efficient.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Smith, Senator Moore next.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the body, mine won't take much time and I'll give the rest of my time to Senator Hannibal. But, Ernie, I think that I do owe you at least the explanation of why I've been voting against this piece of legislation as it came across the floor and my motives are very simple. They are basically the same as you've heard evidenced by Senator Schimek and Senator Lamb, and also the situation that we have had and I know that we can only always relate to our own areas. But we had sort of a bad situation in my district where we had a mayor and a council who were not