

SENATOR LAMB: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Lamb, you are so cooperative. I don't want to ask you any more questions.

SENATOR LAMB: I'm going to...if I could say one more thing, I'm going to vote to bring the bill back. I'm going to vote against the bill, but I'll vote to give you a chance, Ernie.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: There is a song that says, you have the right to speak your mind, but not on my time, but you got it in. (laughter) Members of the Legislature, what I hope you will look at is how these arguments are given but they have no validity when you view them in a historical context. I fought year after year after year to obtain district elections and practically every other city in the state has district election of city council. The Legislature fought it year after year after year, then finally they made an...they agreed to do it. During all those years when there was no stagger, the Legislature did not see fit to require staggered elections and it did not result in doing away with the stagger in any other city. So I'm not going to say at this point that the people who offer that argument are insincere in offering it. I'm just saying that they have no basis whatsoever in thinking that that is a valid argument, it is not. As far as whether all the people who are on the council would be thrown out at the same time or not is a decision for the public to make, and when you have district elections it would mean that every district felt the same way about every member of the council and decided that the person representing their district should be thrown out. That is not a concern that the Legislature ought to have. It is almost like saying, let the people vote but you should stack it so you can determine that they will not be able to get rid of somebody with whom they are dissatisfied. I hope what you will do, after you vote to reconsider the bill, is vote to pass it. Remember this, the people in office in Omaha requested the bill so they are the ones who are being placed in jeopardy, politically, if anybody is. Nobody in this Legislature is facing that and nobody's city is going to be affected, and if an attempt was made by somebody from Omaha to do away with the staggering of the cities, I would oppose it. But I do have a bill that will come before the body at some point which will decrease the number required to win a seat on the Douglas County Board because that board should be elected by districts. In the