

and racial minorities in Omaha who have nobody representing them on the county board, and when you look at how the board is administered that is not difficult to establish. So Senator Labeledz is telling me that it's better for me to have nobody than one. That doesn't wash. And you'll notice she read off a number of counties, but more than three times the number she read elect by district. So district election is not a strange concept. I gave you a handout, and I'm going to try and keep this as quiet and gentle an afternoon as it has been this morning and will probably continue to be after this bill, because I think the facts will speak for themselves. The first page in that handout deals with a 1986 Supreme Court decision, U.S., which shows how many municipalities and counties are being compelled by federal court order to go to a district method of election, and it's based on the fact that minorities who cannot put members on the board, whatever it happens to be, have their voting strength diluted and, in effect, cannot put anybody on the board. The article points out the number of cities and counties which, rather than go to court on this, because they knew they would lose, they state in the article that in view of the 1986 U.S. Supreme Court decision they know they would lose, they go ahead and accept a district plan. The second page relates to an article from 1979, dealing with Thurston County in Nebraska where a lawsuit was filed because Indians were unable to place anybody on the Thurston County Board after they went from district to at large. The judge was going to rule in their favor, so Thurston County agreed to a settlement rather than continue it all the way, and seven districts, as my bill proposes, were created. Two of them would just about guarantee representation for the native Americans. Population wise Douglas County is much more populace than Thurston County, but that small...that sparsely populated county had seven districts. On one of the sheets that I gave to you, I'm just trying to give you some background because I think there are others who will oppose Senator Labeledz's amendment which is designed really to gut the bill. And Jim Moylan is trying hard to earn his money, and I don't blame him for doing this. But I got some figures today from the Planning Department in Omaha and the 1986 population total for Douglas County was...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: .. 415,000, that was in 1986. By the time we have an election by districts, in 1992, the population will have increased. But if you go by that figure the district will