

March 29, 1989

LB 588

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I wasn't going to speak on this issue. As a matter of fact, I am a little ambivalent myself as to how I feel, because I am from Douglas County and I see some good arguments on both sides. Maybe if Senator Chambers would respond to a question it would help me a little.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Senator Chambers, one of the provisions of the current situation in Douglas County, having five county board members all elected at large is that...one of your arguments is if you have a body of an ethnic minority that they have a very, very small chance of having a representation from that area. Is that correct?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, that's correct.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Would you...And if we had districts, if we had five districts that were all elected by district, you would have a better chance of having one area represented by that person. Is that correct?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, they might have...

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Better than at large.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, they wouldn't have a chance because the number...the size of the district would be over 80,000, each district.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: You would admit that there would be a better chance than at large.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No. Senator...

SENATOR HANNIBAL: You wouldn't admit that?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Here's the only way I can deal with that, Senator Hannibal, and I use the example from time to time, if there is a knife stuck in my back and the blade is six inches deep into my back, and somebody pulls it out two inches, I still have it in my back. So effectively in a district of 80,000