

SENATOR LABEDZ: Just one more item that I forgot to discuss. I really appreciate the fact that on General File, when my amendment was being debated, Senator Warner did rise in support of what I was trying to do, because he said Lancaster County had the same procedure and it was working very, very well, and there are no complaints by the Lancaster County residents. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, since I've been asked a question about exactly what we're doing, I want to make it clear I am supporting a reconsideration of Senator Labeledz' amendment because my desire is that that amendment be taken off the committee amendments. There had been considerable work put into the drafting of those committee amendments, and I can understand Mr. Moylan having a job to do. But in his haste he drafted an amendment that gutted the committee amendments and did not produce a procedure to move from at large to district, because he knows that the proposition that has been offered is one that I would not accept, so he feels, and probably rightly so, that the bill is not going anywhere anyway with that kind of an amendment. It is a hoax, it's a travesty and it is grossly unfair. It is clear to those in Douglas County that if you had a system such as Senator Labeledz is asking for they could still, and when I say they, I mean those interests that don't want representation throughout the county, could still control how things would turn out through the General Election. The money that they have to put into it, the means that they have to have access to the media, and the other things that go along with political power would work to their advantage. My intent in offering 588 was to have representation throughout the county. When Senator Warner spoke, and Senator Labeledz mentioned him earlier, he said he would rather not believe that race and things like that should be a consideration. But the fact is they are, this is 1989, and there is racism in this country and in this state. There are actions by the county board that act as though black people, and others who are not white, don't exist, which is what the city council used to do before we went to districts, and so did the school board. The Omaha Public School System had entrenched a system of racial segregation that was broken down only through federal court action, and they're still under that integration order now. So, it's not fair for people to stand on this floor and pretend that this glaring reality does not exist. District