

elections will not solve every problem that is faced in that county, but it gives an opportunity to a deprived, disfranchised community to have representation on the body that governs; the opportunity to have its viewpoint heard and considered; a meaningful vote in determining how they themselves will be governed. A vote is meaningful only if it can influence the outcome of an election and help determine the policies that are implemented. Senator Labeledz, Senator Warner and everybody else on this floor know that with the relatively small percentage that black people make up in Douglas County, there is no chance in an at large election. Even under her system there is going to be a large percentage of white people in the district. And that's not to say that the interests of black people and white people will not at some point converge, but the reality is that the people in the north Omaha area would have to put all of their forces together in order to place somebody on the county board. The forces outside that district could run a candidate who lives in the district even if it's on the fringe who does not have the interests of those, that district at heart. In the general election the money from outside the district would go to that second place finisher who was the choice of people who don't live in the district and a cruel hoax will have been worked. A system will have been put in place by the Legislature which allegedly is designed to give representation, but which guarantees the contrary. This is why I will appreciate a yes vote on the reconsideration motion, then a yes vote to strip Senator Labeledz's amendment. I gave you a handout that shows how the county board members, when it came to property valuations had favored their friends and those who contributed to their campaigns and I assure you that none of those people who were favored lived in the areas of the city that I'm concerned about. This is the reality of what is happening with the Douglas County Board. It is not fair and it is not appropriate, so I'm asking that you give a yes vote...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...on the motion to reconsider.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hannibal, on the motion to reconsider, Senator Baack on deck.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, if you'll recall, the last time I got up to speak on this particular issue everybody shut the mikes off on me and I was in