

Legislature points out the feeling of obligations she has to represent her district and those people who otherwise might be without a voice, she comes here on this issue and says that people in my area are better off with no voice at all, no voice at all. That's what her argument boils down to. It is not really fair. Here is where you could consider me to be offering you a radical proposition. If the majority of counties did not already elect by district, if the city council in Omaha did not elect by district, if the school board in Omaha did not elect by district, you could say a district concept is something that might befuddle the public. But it is the rule rather than the exception in Nebraska. I touched earlier on the racial composition of Omaha and Douglas County. Senator Labeledz and Senator Warner had mentioned that the system in Lancaster County works pretty well where you have a district nomination and at large election. In Lincoln you have a relatively homogeneous society as far as racial makeup. So you cannot take...well, the common expression is that between things disparate in nature there can be no comparison. A more garden variety way of expressing it is that you can't compare apples to oranges.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: When you have a different socioeconomic situation in Lancaster County than you have in Douglas County, you cannot take what happens in Lancaster and say it will work as effectively in Douglas, and I'm not even sure that it's working effectively in Douglas County because Senator Wesely and others challenged that. But the fact is we're talking about Douglas County, there are serious deficiencies in the way the county is governed and I want to emphasize again, for Senator Warner especially who doesn't want to look at the true problem of race. Senator Warner, it took a federal court decision to desegregate the schools, it took federal court action to break down some of the segregation that existed in Omaha Police Division and they currently are working under a consent decree with the Justice Department. So the existence of racism has been established. The FBI Office has been found to have been very racist in its dealings with one of its agents...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...who had been stationed there, so it is a serious problem and I hope the rest of you will not ignore it because it's unpleasant to look at.