

SPEAKER BARRETT: The motion prevails. The call is raised and we are then back to the Labeledz amendment. Senator Labeledz, on your amendment.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I understand now we're on the Labeledz amendment to the committee amendments and it will require 25 votes. I refuse to stand up here and give you my reasons over and over again. I'm asking you to vote for the amendment to the committee amendments. Senator Chambers made some accusations as to how I feel. He certainly does not know how I feel or how my constituents feel. If I had anyone in my district telling me in the last three or four weeks that what I was doing was wrong, then I would withdraw the amendment to the committee amendments. But no one in my district has said that it was wrong for me to do that and I represent my district and I represent the whole State of Nebraska, but I will say one thing. When you're voting for a county commissioner or a city council member, you want each and every one of those county commissioners to be accountable to your vote, both in the primary and in the general election. But I felt that we had to compromise with Senator Chambers and to go with an amendment to the bill itself to have them nominated in the primary and elected at large. If, later on, there is an amendment, as Senator Hannibal suggested, that we go to seven county commissioners, I may even support that although I think it's an unnecessary expense for Douglas County to have seven county commissioners. I believe that the last time I checked they were making about \$21,000 a year for one meeting a week which is on Tuesday morning which lasts usually about an hour and a half, if it lasts that long. So to have seven county commissioners in Douglas County, it's an unnecessary expense and if we go back to the bill as it is written, LB 588 requires seven county commissioners rather than the five we have. I still say, Senator Chambers, that I want each and every one of those county commissioners to be accountable to my vote. In the primary election, they can go by district, but we can elect them at large in the general election. It's unfortunate that this is only for Douglas County, and if any one of the senators came up with a problem that they're having in their county, I would certainly support you in any type of election that you think was necessary in your district or in your county. So I urge you to vote for the Labeledz amendment and we will then go on with the bill itself and Senator Chambers or anyone else can amend the bill to what they think is best for Douglas County. Thank you.