

April 10, 1989

LB 588

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, back in, I believe it was 1979, we created city districts so that those who represent the City of Omaha would be nominated and elected by district. I want you to know that I opposed that. Senator Chambers was quite angry at me, but I was representing my district because at that time there was a great fear, a fear of the unknown, and I want to tell you that now my constituents think that is good, that is right and they are happy with those city districts by election. Please think, those of you who have county district elections, and I know that's a vast majority. Only 21 counties, one of which is Douglas, the most populous county does not have district elections. Some of you have said, well, you really don't care how Douglas County elects their representatives, but if you have the opportunity to elect your county commissioner or supervisor by district, then I think that Douglas County should have the same opportunity and you do have a responsibility nevertheless. So I hope you will vote against the committee amendments which also, of course, will, as has been pointed out by earlier speakers, lead to more chaos than order. I hope you'll defeat the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Johnson, please, followed by Senator Withem.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I'd like to ask Senator Chambers a couple of questions, please.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chambers, would you respond?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, I will.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Senator, I've been following this debate and I'm trying to get straight in my mind as to the goal sought by this bill. As I understand the bill is written now with the Labeled amendment adopted, we would nominate individuals by district and then the entire county would then vote in the general upon these people?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Is it my understanding that Lancaster County does that now? Is that correct?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's what the discussion was earlier, yes.