

because I believe that right now they are paid either 19 or 20,000 dollars a year for one meeting a week which is on Tuesday morning and it would be a great deal more money to have seven county commissioners which I don't believe is needed in Douglas County. The proposal that I am coming up with in the next amendment is identical to Lancaster County and I appreciate the fact that Senator Warner got up on General File and said, yes, it's working in Lancaster County. If it's working here, it certainly can work in Douglas County. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, as one who was there, I was a county commissioner for quite a few terms in Douglas County and I lived through three different changes. I was elected at large, I was elected in the district and in the primary I was elected in the...in the primary by district and at large. In the general I was elected at large. You know it's interesting, every time that happened nobody really asked me. Nobody even asked the county board, if I remember. They may have asked certain politicians on the county board because most of those efforts were partisan in nature and inspired for that reason, trying to find a way to get a majority. I remember once when I was elected by district, I had everything north of Ames Street and everything west of 72nd. I had 200,000 people in my district and the other four had the other 100,000. So it depends, I'm not sure, you know, how this can work or if it would, in fact, be an improvement. I guess because I feel fairly firm in my conviction that we should be elected by district in general, but the more I thought about this, the more I thought that the agenda we're serving here has nothing to do with having a better quality county board. The agenda here has to do with expanding the number so that more people or kinds of people can be represented on the board and that's simply it. You can fool around with all the other amendments about trying to work a way around it by electing, you know, in the primary and general at large and the rest, however, it works both ways. The old argument was if you were elected in the primary by district and the general at large, it would give a Republican from a very partisan south Omaha district a chance to be elected and vice versa if you were a Democrat in a Republican area, et cetera, that's the truth. That was the argument. I was there. I can tell you. But I also know there are 21 counties in the state that do elect their county commissioners at large. I know of counties far across, I had a good fortune and great