

is a ring of credibility in what he says because as he pointed out, he was there. But I doubt that Senator Lynch or anybody else on this floor really understands the position that I represent because we have never been there and will never be there. It's difficult for me to pick up the newspapers without being slammed in the face with the racism in this society at large, and in the City of Omaha, specifically. I'm sure Senator Lynch and the other senators from Omaha read about the denial of credit to black people in Omaha that can be accounted for only on the basis of racism. The same thing was found to be the case in Lincoln. So when people like Senator Warner will say that he wishes that race wouldn't enter into it and that the system is working in Lancaster County, and Senator Lynch can say the attempt is to try to get certain people on the board, they are talking as though it's a homogeneous society and that there are no problems that people have because of their race, that there are merely political differences or philosophical differences. It has been demonstrated, however, time after time in this state, in the City of Omaha and in the City of Lincoln, that negative things befall people simply because of their race. For us to be an elective body and say that certain groups which have never had representation should never have representation is short-sighted and unreasonable. To say that because the group of which you are a part which is a majority has always controlled everything, therefore, they should continue to control it is out of step with what America professes to be. When I read about America wanting to oversee and observe elections in other countries to ensure fairness, there is a particular type of bitterness that I feel because I know of the unfairness that exists in this state and in Douglas County which denies representation to all black people. To say that white people are in a position to speak for black people is ludicrous and I doubt that anybody would make that argument today. However, the actions and the words of some members are designed to tell me that we are not entitled to have anything to say in the governing body that makes decisions on a regular basis that will affect our lives and our welfare. This bill is an attempt to correct a problem that does exist. I had mentioned on General File how, in the latter part of the seventies, a federal judge imposed district elections on Thurston County, Nebraska, because Indians had never had anybody on the county board. And the number of commissioners in that county which is much smaller in population than Douglas County is seven. So the number seven is not unwieldily, it is not unduly large and I'd handed you an article some days ago, which if you've forgotten, I'm not