

surprised and wouldn't be offended, that pointed out how the county board members themselves are taking a much more active role in activities related to the county and particularly Omaha. They don't see themselves as a board of administrators.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: They are an active governing body, and what they do does have a profound effect on people such as myself. So what I hope you will do is adopt this amendment. It is very reasonable. The vast majority of the counties are elected by district so there is nothing unusual about this bill. It is right in line with what is done throughout the rest of the state and I hope that I can obtain enough votes to attach this amendment to the bill. Much language that ought not be in the statutes will be cleaned out by this amendment which, in effect, will become the bill. So I hope that you will adopt this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Additional discussion, Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yeah, with all due respect, Ernie, I have to say that when I heard you just now mention about the racist overtones of this, I have to stand with some concern about it. And you imply, I guess, that unless you're black, we'll never know the difference and you're right. You'll probably never know what it's like to be a short, fat, bald-headed, Irish-Catholic Democrat either. I would like to think you represent some of my best interests on occasion around here, and I know you do. So I'm not going to suggest that you should be white. I don't think that Abraham Lincoln was a racist or else he wouldn't have gone through the misery he did with the Civil War. And when we started the retardation, I'm thinking of things, the retardation programs in Douglas County had nothing to do with racism at all. It had to do with doing something for people that needed help. What concerns me about this issue is that it implies racism. It implies that the people on the county board now are, in fact, maybe even racists, and that is not true. Everything they do applies even-handedly for everybody. If some people are helped more than others and if the system did not provide for that, look at us. Look at all of us in the Legislature because, you see, a county board person is no more or no less than what the law allows them to be. They are creatures of the Legislature, they are. They carry out. In fact, if counties didn't exist, you would probably have to