

invent them because you need a wholesaler of services at the local level to carry out not only state programs, but federal programs, and it's your toy to fool around with if you want to, this county board. But I think it's more important than that. In Ernie's and my neighborhood I'll be the first to recognize, however, I feel that I represented everybody in my district whether they were black or white well. I'd be the first to realize that whenever that area becomes more black than white, the possibility exists, that if I were still running I wouldn't get elected however good I was, and that is fine. That's what Ernie is talking about now apparently and that, you see, bothers me and concerns me to a large extent. I don't think it's appropriate that we try to change the system when there is no real reason for it, politically, racially, or for any other reason.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Lynch, had I wanted to say the present board members are racist, that is what I would have said. I'm dealing with a much broader issue than that. I had shown, and I handed the articles out where the U.S. Supreme court as recently as 1986 ruled that the at large system of electing officials in America discriminates against minority group people, that they do not obtain representation on these boards when they're elected at large because white people vote for white people. And as long as white people are voting for white people, nobody wants to raise a question, but when I say let me have a situation where black people can be on the governing board, then suddenly something is wrong with it. White people never have to make the plea that I'm making because they're always in the majority. It's always those minority group members whose interests are not properly taken care of who have to batter on the door to say, if this is the system and it's to govern me, let me in. The Supreme Court ruled in 1988, or '86 that it's not necessary that anybody prove a deliberate intent to discriminate anymore because that is presumed. The voting strength of minority groups is diluted in at large systems of election and the Supreme Court has ruled, as have federal district courts over and over again, that in the case of city councils, county commissioners, and these other types of methods by which people are elected have to elect by district and the courts have imposed a district system and have supervised it. I would