

in Bellevue, because that is where the power base is. Bellevue has the population. Bellevue and Papillion, together, Hartnett and Withem's people together are going to be able to control the county entirely if you have a system where people are nominated by district but they are elected at large because your two guys that are running out there to represent your district are going to have to come into Papillion, they are going to have to come into Bellevue, and the one that can make the best deal to Bellevue and Papillion are the ones that are going to get elected. So I think, frankly, I think your people are going to be worse off if this amendment doesn't pass than if it does. I think that, again, there was no intent when the Lancaster County system was established for it to fly to any other county other than to Lancaster. We are growing into the Lancaster population area. If you want to see a change made for Sarpy County, it ought to be made by introducing legislation and making that change happen. It ought not just to happen automatically, that our statutes automatically change because our county is growing so much. So, you know, I understand Senator Beyer's concerns and those are...he has some legitimate concerns for his part of the county, but I think that defeating the Withem-Hartnett amendment in the long run is going to exacerbate those problems rather than curing those problems. With that, once again, I would urge you to support the Withem-Hartnett amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Beyer, please.

SENATOR BEYER: Well, I guess, I pushed my button, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I punched my button at the time Senator Withem was talking about at large elections. We still will nominate by district and I have supported Senator Labeledz's amendment at the time for Douglas County that would nominate by district and elect at large. I guess the same thing could be said about bringing in another bill. Senator Withem could bring in a bill to change this, but he is adding an amendment on, and I am just objecting to the amendment which I think is my right. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. There are no other lights on. Senator Withem, would you care to close?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Senator Beyer, by no means did I question your right to object to the amendment. You have every right to do that, and to express your opinion, and I am just, you know, arguing why I don't think the body should accept your position