

bill and my amendment is as follows. It leaves the number of seats on the Douglas County Board at five instead of seven. Prior to lunch, I explained to the body that Douglas County definitely does not need seven Douglas County Commissioners. We have five, it's working well. We elect the county attorney, the county assessor, the clerk of the district court, the county clerk, the public defender. The job of Douglas County Commissioner is strictly administration. They meet on Tuesdays for an hour to an hour and a half. They are paid \$21,000 a year. Sometimes they adjourn long before the noon hour because on the same day at one o'clock or one-thirty in the afternoon the city council meets. So if they meet at nine or ten o'clock, they are done long before the lunch hour at a cost to the Douglas County taxpayers of \$21,000 a year. I'm not saying that they don't deserve the salary, but I certainly believe strongly that we do not need seven county commissioners. Number two, it also provides that the Douglas County Commissioners will be nominated by district and elected at large. And if you will recall on General File, Senator Warner said that that's exactly the way it is here in Lancaster County, it's working well, there have been no complaints and I totally agree with him that they could be nominated by district and elected at large. Now, Senator Chambers refuses to accept what I consider a compromise because at least they would be nominated by district and elected at large. Finally, my amendment allows for the alteration of district boundaries in Douglas County once every four years as is the common practice now, or the current practice, instead of the 10 years as proposed in the bill. Senator Beyer probably said it all this morning when he said there is already problems in Sarpy County, and I hope the outstate senators are listening to me. Senator Beyer mentioned the fact that the city council in Sarpy County is elected by district, yet he has problems in the outskirts of Sarpy County, in other words, in the rural area, because he does not believe that one representative in the rural area compared to the others in Bellevue and the cities in Sarpy County give him fair representation in the outskirts or in the rural areas of Sarpy County, and that's just what I've been trying to tell you and Senator Lynch has been trying to tell you, that if you think you've got an urban-rural split in the Legislature, you will see what will happen in Douglas County when you only have one representative out in the western part of the state...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.