

May 10, 1989

LB 588

call is raised.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Labedz would move to amend. Senator, this is your amendment on page 2225 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. This amendment, as the Clerk mentioned, is found on Journal page 2225 and this is a very, very important one, probably more important than number one.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Excuse me. (Gavel.) The house is not in order. Please. Proceed.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. This is an amendment that gives the people of Douglas County the right to vote. We've heard so much and read so much about the right to vote, and I hope there are senators listening because this will give the residents of Douglas County to choose themselves how they will be governed by the Douglas County Commissioners and also...and in fact, Senator Chambers will probably rise and say the people are overwhelmingly in favor of this, and he should definitely not be afraid that this amendment is attached to LB 588. It allows the voters of Douglas County to decide the most suitable alternatives for electing county commissioners by answering the following questions on the ballot: Whether the County Board of Commissioners should be expanded from five to seven. As I told you, and I think there was an article that Senator Chambers gave out this morning and I will give to you in a few minutes the percentage that said when we went to city council by district there was only about 37 percent change in the system and there was an equally amount of residents of the state, I mean of the county, that said there was absolutely no change whatsoever. The second part of the ballot would be whether the commissioners should be nominated and elected by district. This is very important. We are going to decide whether Douglas County should have five to seven members or whether the commissioners should be nominated and elected by district. I strongly believe, and I will support, and naturally will have to, what the people of Douglas County, decide. As you know, there is a disagreement on this issue between the Omaha senators. You could tell that by the vote, the last vote. Therefore, I believe we should allow the voters of Douglas County to determine the most acceptable method of electing their