

population philosophy that we're trying to discuss with this particular piece of legislation as introduced by Senator Chambers. Obviously, the people in New York are represented by only two senators, as are the people in Wyoming, for example. We have a number of examples of why that hasn't worked. The reason for that was to make sure that there would be at least one body, at the federal level, that recognized the needs of even the counties less populated than others. I want to quickly, with all due respect also, suggest that if you refer to the letter put out by the League of Women Voters, in the second paragraph they mention the administrative function is not separated from the legislative of the county boards. In the third paragraph it starts off, when the Douglas County Commissioners function as a legislative body, it is difficult for citizens to identify the chain of command and establish accountability. I know, as an old county commissioner I can tell you that the county board members are a creature of the Legislature. I'm not quite sure what we did that was legislative while I was on the board, but I don't think anything. We did create some policy, on occasion, but we never legislated anything. And we can't confuse the two. We had the chance, for example, to start local programs for retardation, mental health, aging, and other things, but we couldn't do that, and we couldn't pass a law that provided we could do that. The Legislature had to give us the authority. So we really weren't legislative. And I understand and appreciate the good work done by the League of Women Voters. But, in this case, for those of you that are reading that letter, or referred to it, please understand that the county boards, none of them in this state, are legislative in nature. Also like to share with you that as far as numbers are concerned, if 50,000 or 56 satisfies the needs in Douglas County, as it applies to county commissioner districts to make sure we have a fair representation, that's the reason I agree with it, I'll go along with seven. Why don't we apply it to our State Legislature? How about that, folks? Why not. If, in fact, this kind of a number in Douglas County, given the kind of a county, the kind of a population, the obvious difference between not only income, but other kinds of differences in our area, it probably could apply to our legislator as well, and talk about saving money, you know we could wind up having seven senators in Douglas County rather than 13, and 30 state senators across the state rather than 49. Why? Why is there a difference then with the philosophy of who should represent who? If, in fact, 50,000 is good in Douglas County, and I subscribe to that. I go along with the seven, and