

They have offices, they have staff, and the expense, like I say, I'm still concerned about that. But actually Senator Lynch's amendment to the committee amendment is a lot better than the bill as amended. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Labeledz. I'll now recognize Senator Chambers, followed by Senators Schimek, Conway, and Horgan. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam Chair and members of the Legislature, I'm going to state succinctly what Senator Lynch's amendment is attempting to do. It is virtually the same thing that we rejected on the last vote, except that he has seven members instead of five. He still wants to nominate by district and elect at large. For those of you who have never been in a minority position, you have no concept of what is involved in what it is we're doing here. The majority group will have its six members, no matter what. The minority group will be deprived of the opportunity to select a person of their choice. Senator Lynch has been around this Legislature a long time, and he's been in politics even longer, and he knows, whether he would acknowledge it or not I'm not sure, he knows that if I were to run for an office and were nominated during the primary by the people in my district, and then all of the people in Omaha could vote whether I get the office or not, Senator Lynch knows I would lose. And if it were at the county level, Senator Lynch knows that I would lose. This amendment is a travesty. It's designed to guarantee that the district which needs the representation the most, and has had the least down through the decades, would continue to be in that unfair, disadvantaged position. I'm not talking only about geographical representation. Geographical representation could be considered to represent farms, businesses, telephone poles, streets, sewers, and what not. I am looking at the interests of the people who live in those areas. Throughout this state most of the county boards are elected by district. There is no way that what is being considered here can be deemed to comport with those concepts of democracy that were talked about so much when troops were sent off to Kuwait to defend an emir who owns the country, to defend Shakes who own a country, and then they come back to this state and some of them from Omaha to be told that they cannot have representation on the county board that governs them. When the war fervor is being whipped up, everybody wants to talk about democracy and going thousands of miles away, to the Persian Gulf, to defend democracy. And I have said that