

throughout this state. And, keep in mind that in those other counties, by and large there is a homogeneous population, ethnically and racially. In one of the counties, Thurston, because there was a high population of Native Americans, and they could never get anybody on the county board, the federal court ordered that the county be divided into seven districts, ordered that the nomination be by district and the election at large. And after that order from the federal court to mandate a system to provide fair voting in the State of Nebraska, Native Americans wound up being able to put somebody of their choice on the Thurston County Board.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Horgan, followed by Senator Labeledz and Senator Chambers. Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Madam President. I rise to simply say that I think Senator Lynch's amendment is a duplication of Senator Labeledz's. I think the body has spoken on Senator Labeledz's, and so I won't support Senator Lynch's, simply because I don't think we need to stay here all morning to debate this. But I am concerned about...my interest in this, as an Omaha senator, is that I'm concerned about the type of people, the quality of the candidates, and the quality of the people who run for our elective offices. And I'm not all that convinced when I see the county board and the Omaha City Council acting a little bit more like the Bickerson's than good public servants, that we're well served by either district elections or perhaps at large elections. And Senator Chambers' bill, I think, tries to address an inequity that does unquestionably exist. But I feel somewhat in my heart, too, that what it says is that as a community we failed to integrate ourselves, and that we admit that we can't integrate ourselves, and so we're going to go into a system that's going to perpetuate our separateness. And perhaps that needs to be done when that seems to, unfortunately, be the reality. And so I think we can debate this issue. And looking around, the number of senators who are not on the floor, I think we, in Douglas County, sometimes have a habit of airing our dirty laundry here in the Chamber. And perhaps we'd be better off directing our efforts in another fashion. But I think Senator Chambers has a legitimate problem that he's trying to address. I don't know that it's the best solution, and it troubles me that we have to go with this solution. But I don't know that we need to continue to debate this issue on and on and with endless amendments that will simply end up, either today,