

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Since the majority of the Omaha area senators are co-sponsoring this bill, I hope the rest of the senators will support it. District election is the method by which most of the county boards are elected in the State of Nebraska. As far as raising the number from five, which is the current number, to seven, the projected number in LB 789, I had gone through all of the counties in the state and discovered that 27 have seven members. So the number is not out of the question. The Omaha City Council is composed of 7 members, the Omaha School Board has 12. So the issue is not really the number of members, it is the philosophy. I think that there should be district representation. All of the interests to be governed by the county should have a fair opportunity to be represented...

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...on the board. So I hope you will defeat Senator Lynch's amendment.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Next is Senator Labeledz on the amendment to the committee amendment.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of Senator Lynch's amendment. Senator Chambers explained, and it is true, that I had an amendment on Friday which did not succeed, because it was reduced to five nominated by district and elected at large, and only five. My main concern at that time was the fact that each Douglas County Commissioner is paid almost \$24,000 a year, and eventually I understand it will be at least 25,000, and paying seven county commissioners that much money was a little bit out of reach as far as I was concerned. But I certainly will support Senator Lynch's, even though it calls for seven to be nominated by district and elected at large, because it would narrow the districts down to a point where I was hoping it would satisfy some of the Omaha senators that are co-sponsoring Senator Chambers' bill. The fact that the Douglas County Board is not a legislative body, and by all accepted definitions it does not have any legislative powers whatsoever, I believe that electing seven county commissioners at large in the General Election, nominating them by district will have a lot more accountability than we would have with Senator Chambers' original bill, which called at least for nine at that time, but the county...committee reduced that to seven, which is a lot better, of course, than nine. And I support and urge the members of the body to support Senator Lynch's