

amendments were before us, but so that it is crystal-clear what will be done because I have just discovered that some had labored under a misperception. The bill, in its present form, will require district election. In Douglas County right now, the election is at large. This bill will have seven districts drawn. Each member will be nominated by district and elected by district. That is the form in which the bill exists now. I feel that there was a fair and square battle on two amendments which were very similar and both were defeated. I hope those who had supported those amendments will now feel free to support the bill. If you have any questions, I will answer them, but one thing I should make clear. The first election by district will occur in 1992. That is when part of the current board will have their terms to expire. Their at large terms will expire. Those positions will then be elected by district. In 1994, the remaining terms of those who were elected at large will expire. Those positions then will be elected by district, and from that date forward, there will be district election for every position on the county board in Douglas County. So I hope you will vote to advance this bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Further discussion on the bill, Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Just very briefly, when this bill was first introduced during my stint in the Legislature, I think four years ago, I voted with the Lynch amendment at that time. Since that time, I have studied this issue, and without going into long division, I am going to support Senator Chambers in his efforts. I think that he has made a case to me over the last four years. I have been slow to come around. The argument that was always addressed to me was that the county board was an administrative body and not necessarily a legislative body, and, certainly, the county board does fulfill administrative functions but it also votes on a rather substantial budget, and the allocation of those funds and the priorities by which we spend those monies on the county level have a direct impact in a legislative way on the way we do business governmentally within Douglas County. Secondly, I was interested in hearing Senator Pirsch's withdrawal. Senator Pirsch is one of the senators who tried to convince me for the last four years to vote for the district election bill. I certainly respect her desire to change, and obviously that is her desire, and respect her for that but she gave me some awfully good arguments why we should have district elections in