

politicians, who can make appointments now, appoint people who do not act in the best interest of the groups from which they were drawn, I would not trust a county administrator or whatever that person is called. I look at the current mayor of Omaha and I have not seen him undertake programs that have in mind the interests of black people. It took me several years to get a bill through the Legislature calling for district elections of county commissioners. This was essential because in the history of Nebraska, not only had there never been a black person on the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, there had never been a woman. The first election which occurred by districts resulted in the placement of two women on the county board, by way of election, one of whom is black. The Legislature agreed several years ago to require the election of city council members in Omaha by districts. Prior to that, in the history of this state no black person had ever served on the city council. After district elections took place, black people, at least two, have been elected to the county board. One served as president for a period of time and even temporary mayor as a result of that. The same is true of the school board in Omaha. After district elections, black people were elected and a black woman was elected on the board to be chairperson of the school board. So if all of these other counties feel they have such a homogenous population, such a commonality of interests that they are prepared to have one individual appoint all of the county officers and officials, so be it. I am unwilling to see that happen in Douglas County where I live. Even with district elections at the county, city, and school board level, problems still exist. But at least somebody is on each one of these boards who can speak directly to our situation, have a voice in the discussion, and cast a vote on policies. So what my amendment is designed to do is prevent Douglas County from being a part of this constitutional amendment. I don't see where Senator Hillman's bill (sic) would be harmed by the exclusion of Douglas County. I don't see how the interests of any of other senator is harmed by the exclusion of Douglas County. But I see a great amount of harm coming if Douglas County is included. Senator Hillman, you may not be aware of this, but a number of groups solicited support for term limit signatures on their petition by ensuring people that it was a way to get rid of me and that it might be the only way. So if there were to be a person on the Douglas County Board whom white people did not like, then an attempt could be made to have that person ousted, not by even encouraging somebody to run against that person and