

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Wesely so well, I think, defined the issue that there is not need for me to say too much else other than what Senator George is doing here or attempting to do is to change the method of election by means of an amendment to a bill and the reason it is so ironic, Senator George was one of the strenuous arguers yesterday for limiting the number of bills which a Senator could introduce. In opposition to the restriction some of us mentioned that a Senator will be put in a position of trying to amend somebody else's bill rather than introduce a bill and the amendment may be more substantial than the bill itself. So the individual, who on the one hand said he is in favor of simplifying the process, has resorted to the very tactic which the other move was designed to prevent. Now to the issue itself. Senator Wesely is a new Senator here as nine or ten others are. When this bill went before the Education Committee somebody from that so-called education establishment misrepresented what the amendment would do in order to obtain Senator Wesely's nonopposition. As soon as Senator Wesely became aware of what the amendment would do he objected strenuously and notified me and everybody else I presume who might have an interest. There was no notice to the public, no hearing on the issue and the Education Committee to its credit would not allow that subterfuge to be utilized to attach that amendment to a bill when if it was to be introduced at all should have been a separate bill, notified to the public and a hearing established for it. What Senator Wesely is trying to do in his bill I think is self-evident. It has to do with opening up a procedure by which certain decisions are made. Senator George, I didn't get to hear his entire presentation but has stated to me that he felt uncomfortable for some time with his vote in favor of allowing district elections in Omaha. Now I guess various types of pressure have been brought to bear on him so he is discharging an obligation by offering the amendment. I feel that we should help him discharge his obligation by turning it down and allowing Senator Wesely's bill to move. It has been held up for about four days, maybe even longer altogether because Senator George was not able to offer his amendment on General File because he was not here, and on Select File I understand the weather prevented him, but nevertheless he was not here then also. In view of the nature of the issue I think that the bill ought not be returned to Select File and if Senator George does want to do battle on the issue which relates to Omaha, not Blair where he lives, then Senator George ought to introduce the bill, have the public hearing and then on its