

have led to more interest in the school board in Lincoln and there is very much an interest in representation on that level of government, whereas before perhaps there wasn't that great an interest. District elections I think would actually facilitate greater and better awareness on the part of the citizens of the City of Lincoln about their school board and about their school district. So, I just basically philosophically believe that district elections do provide better representation. Now I can understand that there may be some need to make perhaps some amendments on perhaps Select File or what have you to try and work out some sort of compromises with some members that have concerns. But, my feeling is that we ought to support the advancement of the bill at this time in the shape that it is in without amendments and without lengthy debate because of the time constraints that we have. I urge you to strongly support the bill. Philosophically and practically it will provide a very positive effect, I think, on the school system in Lincoln, and my feeling is that your support would meet with the approval of the majority of the members of the city. Now, as you know from Senator Beutler's description we do have a half and half system now. Nomination by District Election at large. Basically that system is an attempt to compromise but I don't think that it is a compromise that works particularly well. I would term it a half baked solution to the problem of what is the best type of representation on a level of government. My feeling is that you may get nominated by district and it would provide a mix of geographic representation, that I grant is a positive aspect of that system.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have thirty seconds.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you Mr. Speaker, but in the end the vote that really counts, the vote that really matters is still at large, it is still system wide, it is still across the city and that is the vote that makes the difference, because you don't take office after that initial primary victory when you are nominated. You take office when you win the at large election in the General Election. So, in the end you still have an at large system that allows for geographic representation. I don't think that that goes far enough in providing the representation that we need in Lincoln. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler, do you wish to close? Senator Beutler, Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Were there no other speakers on the matter, Mr. Chairman?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Yes, but we have about three and a half minutes