

directors within the Lower Platte South it is almost equal clear down the line. You look at the voting percentage of the County Attorney and it's way down. So there is something wrong here. It's hard for me to understand where they are coming from. So I'm going to continue to oppose this bill. I suppose when I leave here they're going to try it again when I'm not here, but there will be others following me that will know that this is a good issue. You visit with any one of the directors of Lower Platte South and they will say that they are happy with the way the thing is run, they are happy with the way the thing is operating and we should retain that position. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland, then Senator Chambers.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, let me just make a couple of brief points about this bill. Number one, this pertains to Omaha and Lincoln only, to the Natural Resource Districts in Omaha and Lincoln only. Now Natural Resource Districts more and more are becoming general governmental subdivisions with a broad variety of important powers that they exercise throughout their district. We have a severe underrepresentation or lack of representation problem in Omaha because as Senator Wesely points out, the size, the population size of the districts varies from 1,300 to over 70,000. I happen to live in a district in central west Omaha that has a population in the forty to fifty to sixty thousand person range and I am facing people who vote in districts with two, three, four or five thousand persons in the district and they have as much clout with that NRD board as I do and as my neighbors do. Now it is simply unfair. It really amounts to taxation without representation for a lot of the urban residents. It is a festering problem that has been continuing for years and years that we need to address and we can address in the Omaha and Lincoln situation with this bill. Now Senator Sieck indicates that a board of 21 is fine, that we need that many representatives on an NRD board. Well, let me point out that the Omaha City Council has seven members. The Douglas County Board has five members. Even the Omaha School Board has 12 members. To have 21 members for a low visibility position like that with this goofy kind of election system we have means less accountability, less responsiveness than we're entitled to have from a general governmental subdivision with the kind of authority and the kind of powers the Natural Resource Districts have. Please