

SENATOR FENGER: Thank you, Mr. President. Needless to say, I rise in support, total support, I might add, of Senator Johnson's motion to bring this important issue before the floor. I think that we should get our thinking straight because somebody is wrong. I must be misinterpreting the issue at hand. As I read this issue, it is confined only to the selection process of those of us sitting in these chairs. I see nothing that says it automatically follows that total blind partisanship will become a part of this body. I see nothing, in fact, that says if one party has a majority, someone from the other party who has, in fact, carried out their position as a committee chairman will automatically be denied that, and if anyone reads in print that that goes automatic, I would like to see it. I submit to you that most of this conversation this morning has not addressed the true issue and is in fact conjecture. Frankly my name is on this ballot because I am concerned. The absence of party involvement in the selection of people who sit in these chairs has in fact created a void. I would certainly yield to Senator Vickers on his knowledge of Mr. Norris' intent in 1934 when he dreamed of this body but I submit to everyone in this room that even Mr. Norris didn't realize that in the absence of this selection method that that void would be filled by special interests. There is a void. That void is being filled and I don't like what I see filling it. If this issue went to the voters, if this issue were approved, we would no longer have an ignorant voter as far as the selection process because we would have people watching our every action. Those of us who have to go back would have to be accountable to a population about to vote to send a representative here that would be much more knowledgeable in what has happened to their incumbent during the past four years and this body would not be selected based on their willingness to accept one or two issues that may be important to some people but insignificant to others and I think this thing should be brought to the floor so that an adequate discussion could be had. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Remmers.