

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

January 30, 1997 LR 20, 26, 30

point out a document that Senator Kristensen and I have initialed, Senator Warner was not on the floor at that time, although he would have had the opportunity to do so had he been. This is an unbylined article, as the author of it was used to writing when he was writing editorials in a local newspaper. Mr. Dick Herman, who is the Chair of the Constitutional Revision Commission, authored this document that says Constitutional Revision Commission overview, and it's an excellent little six or seven paragraph document that states the guiding philosophy of the Constitutional Revision Commission. I've underlined a number of things in it. The commission wanted to enhance the constitution's political accountability. They wanted to make greater efficiencies possible. They wanted to harmonize changes and modernize the language, and there are a number of proposals that expand the citizen's rights guaranteed under our constitution. And this is the one that...one of those is before us at this moment, as are a couple of other, I think, somewhat less substantive measures that I have been the principal author of, (LR) 26CA and (LR) 30CA. Senator Kristensen did an excellent job of talking about the legal scrutiny, the legal rationalization for this action. As a layperson, I guess I would just stand to indicate that as a citizen, who believes very strongly that citizens in our nation need to have their fundamental rights protected, as somebody who has done a fair amount of reading and a fair amount of instruction in my days as a high school government teacher in the constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, I know how important the concept of not denying equal protection of the law is. It is a guarantee given us by the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution relative to federal cases. I believe that it is important that the Nebraska Constitution be strengthened to include this language in our own constitution. As Senator Kristensen has indicated to you, the ban against special legislation has been interpreted by our court over the years as being a type of equal protection clause, but I think having this specific language in our constitution will improve our constitution, and I would urge the members of the Legislature to advance this resolution today.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body.