

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
April 12, 2016

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LB722 LB745 LB746A LB746 LB754 LB754A LB774 LB774A LB803 LB830 LB867
LB867A LB886A LB886 LB889 LB889A LB919 LB919A LB934 LB934A LB935 LB938A
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SPEAKER HADLEY PRESIDING

SPEAKER HADLEY: GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. WELCOME TO THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER FOR THE 58th DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION. OUR CHAPLAIN FOR TODAY IS PASTOR MATT BAHMFLETH FROM CHRIST THE SERVANT IN NORFOLK, NEBRASKA, THE GUEST OF SENATOR SCHEER. PLEASE RISE.

PASTOR BAHMFLETH: (PRAYER OFFERED.)

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU. I CALL TO ORDER THE 58th DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ROLL CALL.

SENATOR GLOOR PRESIDING

SENATOR GLOOR: MR. CLERK, PLEASE RECORD.

CLERK: I HAVE A QUORUM PRESENT, MR. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. ARE THERE ANY CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL?

CLERK: I HAVE NO CORRECTIONS.

SENATOR GLOOR: ARE THERE ANY MESSAGES, REPORTS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS?

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR BOLZ OFFERS LR623. THAT WILL BE LAID OVER AT THIS TIME. THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1547-1548.) [LR623]

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SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. MR. SPEAKER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY, I TOLD YOU WHAT DAY IT WAS FOR THIS SESSION, BUT I KIND OF MISSPOKE. IT'S 598 DAYS FOR A NUMBER OF US IN THIS SESSION AT THIS POINT IN TIME. I WANT YOU TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO HOW WE'RE GOING TO DO THE AGENDA TODAY. WE ARE BREAKING FOR LUNCH, FOR A 20-MINUTE STAND AT EASE LUNCH. WE HAVE SOME LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS THAT HAVE TIME LIMITS ON THEM AND, YOU KNOW, WE'RE GOING TO GET THROUGH THE DAY. MR. CLERK, I WOULD LIKE TO WITHDRAW THE MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES.

SENATOR GLOOR: HEARING NO OBJECTION, SO ORDERED. MEMBERS, WE WILL BEGIN FINAL READING. PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR SEATS FOR FINAL READING.

SPEAKER HADLEY PRESIDING

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. CLERK, THE FIRST BILL IS LB400. [LB400]

CLERK: (READ LB400 ON FINAL READING.) [LB400]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB400 PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB400]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1548-1549.) 46 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 2 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB400]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB400 PASSES. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB400A. [LB400 LB400A]

CLERK: (READ LB400A ON FINAL READING.) [LB400A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB400A PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NO. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB400A]

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CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1549-1550.) 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB400A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB400A PASSES. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB465. [LB400A LB465]

CLERK: (READ LB465 ON FINAL READING.) [LB465]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB465 PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB465]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1550.) 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB465]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB465 PASSES. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB465A. [LB465 LB465A]

CLERK: (READ LB465A ON FINAL READING.) [LB465A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB465A PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB465A]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1550-1551.) 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB465A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB465A PASSES. (DOCTOR OF THE DAY INTRODUCED.) MR. CLERK, WE WILL PROCEED TO LB467. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB465A LB467]

CLERK: 40 AYES, 2 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. [LB467]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB467]

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CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB467.) [LB467]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB467 PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB467]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1551-1552.) 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB467]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB467 PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. MR. CLERK, WE WILL GO TO LB467A. [LB467 LB467A]

CLERK: (READ LB467A ON FINAL READING.) [LB467A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB467A PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB467A]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1552-1553.) 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB467A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB467A PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB505. [LB467A LB505]

CLERK: (READ LB505 ON FINAL READING.) [LB505]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB505 PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB505]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1553.) 48 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB505]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB505 PASSES. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB505A. [LB505 LB505A]

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CLERK: (READ LB505A ON FINAL READING.) [LB505A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB505A PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB505A]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1553-1554.) 48 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB505A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB505A PASSES. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB683. [LB505A LB683]

CLERK: (READ LB683 ON FINAL READING.) [LB683]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB683 PASS? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB683]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1554-1555.) 46 AYES, SENATOR LARSON VOTING YES. 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB683]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB683 PASSES. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB722. [LB683 LB722]

CLERK: (READ LB722 ON FINAL READING.) [LB722]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB722 PASS? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB722]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1555.) 45 AYES, 2 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB722]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB722 PASSES. WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB722A. [LB722 LB722A]

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CLERK: (READ LB722A ON FINAL READING.) [LB722A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB722A PASS? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB722A]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1556.) 42 AYES, 2 NAYS, 4 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB722A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB722A PASSES. WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB754. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB722A LB754]

CLERK: 42 AYES, 1 NAY, MR. PRESIDENT, TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. [LB754]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB754]

CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB754.) [LB754]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB754 PASS? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB754]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1557.) 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB754]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB754 PASSES. WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB754A. [LB754 LB754A]

CLERK: (READ LB754A ON FINAL READING.) [LB754A]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB754A PASS? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB754A]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1557-1558.) 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB754A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB754A PASSES. MR. CLERK, WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB803. [LB754A LB803]

CLERK: (READ LB803 ON FINAL READING.) [LB803]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB803 PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB803]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1558-1559.) 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB803]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB803 PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB830. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB803 LB830]

CLERK: 42 AYES, 1 NAY, MR. PRESIDENT, TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. [LB830]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB830]

CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB830.) [LB830]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB830 PASS? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB830]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1559.) 48 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING. [LB830]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB830 PASSES. MR. CLERK, WE WILL PROCEED TO LB867. THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB830 LB867]

CLERK: 41 AYES, 1 NAY, MR. PRESIDENT, TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. [LB867]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB867]

CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB867.) [LB867]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB867 PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB867]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1560-1561.) 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING. [LB867]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB867 PASSES. WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB867A. [LB867 LB867A]

CLERK: (READ LB867A ON FINAL READING.) [LB867A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB867A PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB867A]

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CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1561.) 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB867A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB867A PASSES. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB919. [LB867A LB919]

CLERK: (READ LB919 ON FINAL READING.) [LB919]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB919 PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB919]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1562.) 46 AYES...SENATOR SULLIVAN VOTING YES. 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB919]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB919 PASSES. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB919A. [LB919 LB919A]

CLERK: (READ LB919A ON FINAL READING.) [LB919A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB919A PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB919A]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1562-1563.) 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB919A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB919A PASSES. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB934. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED, NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB919A LB934]

CLERK: 41 AYES, 2 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. [LB934]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB934]

CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB934.) [LB934]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB934 PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB934]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1564.) 48 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING. [LB934]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB934 PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB934A. [LB934 LB934A]

CLERK: (READ LB934A ON FINAL READING.) [LB934A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB934A PASS? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB934A]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1564-1565.) 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB934A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB934A PASSES. WHILE THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION AND CAPABLE OF TRANSACTING BUSINESS, I PROPOSE TO SIGN AND DO HEREBY SIGN LB400, LB400A, LB465, LB465A, LB467E, LB467AE WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE, LB505, LB505A, LB683, LB722, LB722A, LB754, LB754A, LB803 WITH EMERGENCY CLAUSE, LB830, LB867, LB867A, LB919, LB919A, LB934 WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE, AND LB934A. MR. CLERK, WE WILL NOW GO TO LB960. THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB934A LB400 LB400A LB465 LB465A LB467 LB467A LB505 LB505A LB683 LB722 LB722A LB754 LB754A LB803 LB830 LB867 LB867A LB919 LB919A LB934 LB960]

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ASSISTANT CLERK: 41 AYES, 1 NAY TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB960]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB960]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB960.) [LB960]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB960 PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB960]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1566.) VOTE IS 48 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING. [LB960]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB960 PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB960A. [LB960A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (READ LB960A ON FINAL READING.) [LB960A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB960A PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE, ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB960A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1566-1567.) VOTE IS 46 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, 1 EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB960A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB960A PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB977. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB960A LB977]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 40 AYES, 1 NAY TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. [LB977]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB977]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB977.) [LB977]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB977 PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB977]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1568.) VOTE IS 49 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE FINAL PASSAGE OF THE BILL. [LB977]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB977 PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. MR. CLERK, WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB977A. [LB977 LB977A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (READ LB977A ON FINAL READING.) [LB977A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB977A PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB977A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1568-1569.) VOTE IS 49 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB977A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB977A PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB1022. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB977A LB1022]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 41 AYES, 1 NAY TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB1022]

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ASSISTANT CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB1022.) [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB1022E PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB1022]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1569-1570.) VOTE IS 44 AYES, 4 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB1022 PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB1033. [LB1022 LB1033]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (READ LB1033 ON FINAL READING.) [LB1033]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB1033 PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE, ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB1033]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1570-1571.) VOTE IS 49 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB1033]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB1033 PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) MR. CLERK, THE NEXT BILL IS LB1105. [LB1033 LB1105]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, FIRST, SENATOR LARSON, YOU HAD AM1928 BUT I HAVE A NOTE TO WITHDRAW. [LB1105]

SPEAKER HADLEY: WITHOUT OBJECTION. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB1105]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 41 AYES, 1 NAY TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. [LB1105]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB1105]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB1105.) [LB1105]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB1105 PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB1105]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1572.) VOTE IS 45 AYES, 2 NAYS, 2 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB1105]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB1105 PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB1105A. [LB1105 LB1105A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (READ LB1105A ON FINAL READING.) [LB1105A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB1105A PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB1105A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1572-1573.) VOTE IS 43 AYES, 0 NAYS, 6 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB1105A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB1105A PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB746. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB1105A LB746]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 39 AYES, 1 NAY TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB746]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB746]

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ASSISTANT CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB746.) [LB746]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB746 PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB746]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1573-1574.) VOTE IS 48 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB746]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB746 PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB746A. [LB746 LB746A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (READ LB746A ON FINAL READING.) [LB746A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB746A PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB746A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1574-1575.) VOTE IS 46 AYES, 0 NAYS, 3 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB746A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB746A PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB774. [LB746A LB774]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, I DO HAVE A MOTION. SENATOR SCHEER WOULD MOVE TO RETURN LB774 TO SELECT FILE FOR A SPECIFIC AMENDMENT, THAT BEING STRIKE THE ENACTING CLAUSE. (FA129, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1575.) [LB774]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SCHEER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB774]

SENATOR SCHEER: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I WAS THINKING THIS MORNING, LOOKING AT THE ENACTING CLAUSE, AND IT'S ALSO COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE

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ENGAGEMENT CLAUSE, WHICH HAD ME THINKING OF THIS WEEKEND BECAUSE MY DAUGHTER RACHEL OF DALLAS BECAME ENGAGED TO AARON HOFFMAN OF DALLAS ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AND THEY TRULY LOVE EACH OTHER AND I THINK WILL BE A WONDERFUL COUPLE. AND THE BONUS FOR ME IS I ACTUALLY LIKE THE GUY, SO. AND I HAVE BROUGHT PINK DONUTS THIS YEAR; I HAVE BROUGHT BLUE DONUTS THIS YEAR; AND THIS MORNING I WILL BRING SOMETHING FOR YOUR MID-MORNING SNACK, A DIFFERENT TYPE OF DONUTS THAT'S APPROPRIATE FOR THE OCCASION TODAY. SO WITH THAT, I WOULD LIKE TO WITHDRAW THE MOTION. [LB774]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SO ORDERED. MR. CLERK. [LB774]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR GROENE WOULD MOVE TO RETURN LB774 TO SELECT FILE FOR A SPECIFIC AMENDMENT, THAT BEING STRIKE THE ENACTING CLAUSE. (FA136, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1575.) [LB774]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED ON YOUR MOTION. [LB774]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. ON SATURDAY MY CONSCIENCE GOT TO ME THAT I AT LEAST NEED TO EXPLAIN TO THE TAXPAYERS WHO I REPRESENT ABOUT WHAT GOES ON DOWN HERE. IF YOU LOOK AT YOUR GREEN SHEET, WE HAVE SPENT \$234 MILLION THIS YEAR THAT WE'RE GOING TO PUT INTO THE NEXT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM BUDGET. THAT'S GOING TO BE ON TOP AN EXPECTED 4.1 PERCENT INCREASE IN SPENDING PER ANNUALLY IF WE DON'T SPEND ANY MORE MONEY. SO THEN I LOOK AT THAT AND I SAY, WELL, HERE WE GOT A BILL THAT STARTED OUT SIMPLE. AND, BY THE WAY, I AGREE WITH SENATOR SCHEER--FAMILY IS WHAT'S IMPORTANT, AND THAT WAS THE BEST MOTION HE'S DONE THIS YEAR. THAT'S NOT AN INSULT, THAT JUST CAPS HIS GOOD WORK. BUT THIS BILL STARTED OUT AS A SIMPLE...ON LB774, OF TRYING TO GIVE A SALES TAX BREAK TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE CLINICS OF 400-AND-SOME-THOUSAND AND THEN IT CHRISTMAS TREED INTO A TAX CREDIT FOR JOB CREATION AND MAINSTREAM REVITALIZATION ACT OF ANOTHER \$400,000 OR \$500,000 TAX CREDIT. AND THEN IT ALSO GOT TACKED ON \$1.5 MILLION FOR GRAIN DRYER FUEL SALES TAX. SO NOW WE GOT A FISCAL NOTE. YOU KNOW, IT DOESN'T SHOW UP IN SPENDING; BUT WHEN YOU DON'T SHOW UP FOR WORK ONE DAY AND YOU DON'T GET PAID FOR THAT DAY AND YOUR BUDGET IS THE SAME, IT'S PRETTY HARD TO PAY YOUR BUDGET. SO WE'RE GOING TO GIVE AWAY \$1.5 MILLION IN TAX CREDITS FOR '16-17 AND START FROM

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THEN ON ABOUT \$2.7 MILLION IN TAX CREDITS TO...I LIKE CO-OPS, BUT THEY HAVE A LOT OF TAX CREDITS ALREADY, FOLKS. AND THEY'RE A LOT OF THE GRAIN DRYER PEOPLE OUT THERE. THEY DON'T NEED MORE. WE CAN'T GO AROUND SPENDING AN EXTRA \$234 MILLION AND THEN TURN AROUND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LEDGER AND GIVE AWAY THESE NICKEL AND DIME. THIS SUMMER WHEN WE HAD OUR JOINT HEARINGS OF EDUCATION AND REVENUE, A LIST WAS PASSED OUT ABOUT HOW WE HAVE A SIEVE OF OUR SALES TAX LAWS WHERE WE GIVE EXEMPTIONS AND EXEMPTIONS AND EXEMPTIONS, AND WE DON'T TAX A LOT OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY THAT MOST STATES DO. AND THEN EVERYBODY'S SHAKING THEIR HEAD AND SAYING WE NEED TO START TAXING MORE ON SALES TAX, AND THEN WE TURN AROUND HERE AND GIVE A COUPLE AWAY. SO MY WHOLE POINT ON THIS IS I WOULD HOPE PEOPLE WOULD VOTE NO ON LB774. WE CAN'T BE GIVING MONEY AWAY WHEN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF IT WE THINK WE CAN SPEND WITH NO LIMITS. SO I'D HOPE YOU WOULD VOTE RED ON THIS. I JUST WANTED TO MAKE THAT POINT. I TOLD MY TAXPAYERS WHEN I CAME DOWN, EVERYBODY GETS A TAX BREAK OR NOBODY. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THIS STUFF COMES FROM, BUT WE CAN'T DO THIS. WE CAN'T DO BOTH, SPEND AND CUT, SO I WOULD ASK YOU TO VOTE RED. AND WITH THAT, I WITHDRAW THE MOTION. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB774]

SPEAKER HADLEY: WITHDRAWN WITHOUT. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB774]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 42 AYES, 1 NAY TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. [LB774]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB774]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB774.) [LB774]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB774 PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB774]

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ASSISTANT CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1576.)
VOTE IS 37 AYES, 10 NAYS, 2 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB774]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB774 PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED.
NOW PROCEED TO LB774A. [LB774 LB774A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (READ LB774A ON FINAL READING. [LB774A])

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING
BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB774A PASS WITH THE
EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE
NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB774A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES
1576-1577.) VOTE IS 39 AYES, 6 NAYS, 4 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR.
PRESIDENT. [LB774A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB774A PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED.
NEXT WE WILL PROCEED TO LB886. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE
WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE
OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB774A LB886]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 41 AYES, 1 NAY TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING.
[LB886]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK,
PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB886]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB886.) [LB886]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING
BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB886 PASS? ALL THOSE IN
FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB886]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES
1577-1578.) VOTE IS 46 AYES, 0 NAYS, 3 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING. [LB886]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: LB886 PASSES. WHILE THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION AND CAPABLE OF TRANSACTING BUSINESS, I PROPOSE TO SIGN AND DO HEREBY SIGN LR613, LR614, LR615, LR616. WE'LL NOW PROCEEDED TO LB886A. [LB886 LR613 LR614 LR615 LR616 LB886A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (READ LB886A ON FINAL READING.) [LB886A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB886A PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB886A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1578-1579.) VOTE IS 48 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB886A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB886A PASSES. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB935. [LB886A LB935]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, ON LB935, SENATOR GROENE WOULD MOVE TO RETURN THE BILL TO SELECT FILE FOR A SPECIFIC AMENDMENT, THAT BEING STRIKE THE ENACTING CLAUSE. (FA137, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1579.) [LB935]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED ON YOUR MOTION. [LB935]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AGAIN, I STAND HERE TO PUT IN THE RECORD FOR THE TAXPAYERS WHEN WE DEBATED THIS THE FIRST TIME, I WAS ASSUMING ON SELECT THAT THERE WAS GOING TO BE AN AMENDMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES HAD A CONCERN ABOUT THIS, AND THERE WAS TALK THAT WE WOULD DO IT ON FINAL READING IF WE VOTED FOR IT, BUT I DIDN'T SEE THAT HAPPEN. MY WHOLE CONCERN...IT'S A GOOD BILL OVERALL. MY WHOLE CONCERN IS THE PER DIEM PAY...PER DIEM EXPENSE PAYMENT. WE HISTORICALLY HAVE ALWAYS HAD TO MAKE OUT EXPENSE REPORTS. IF THE TAXPAYERS WANTED TO DO A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, THEY CAN FIND OUT WHERE I'M EATING, WHAT'S ON MY TICKETS, AND WHERE I WENT AND WHERE I STAYED. THAT'S A GOOD THING. WE JUST HAD IN THE WORLD-HERALD AGAIN ANOTHER STORY THAT SAID ABOUT

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SENDING IN OUR BANK STATEMENTS ABOUT WHAT WE HAVE IN OUR BANK ELECTION ACCOUNTS. SO PEOPLE WANT TRANSPARENCY, BUT HERE WE'RE TAKING IT AWAY. THERE WAS COMMENTS DURING THE DEBATE ABOUT HOW IN GOVERNMENT PER DIEMS ARE COMMON BECAUSE YOUR BOSS KEEPS TRACK OF YOU. WELL, IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT IN NEBRASKA. WE HAVE LOTS OF COMMISSIONS. NO, THEY DON'T HAVE A BOSS. WHEN THEY COME IN AND LEAVE, THEY CAN PUT A PER DIEM DOWN, WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY CAME IN, WHEN THEY LEFT, WHERE THEY STAYED, OR EVEN IF THEY SHOWED UP. AS FAR AS THE SENATORS, IT KEPT US HONEST. WE PUT DOWN WHERE WE ATE, THE TICKETS IN THE HOTELS WE STAYED IN, AND THE ACCOUNTING OFFICE COULD KNOW FOR SURE WHAT DATES WE SHOWED UP AND WHICH DAYS WE LEFT. THIS IS GOING TO COST A LOT OF MONEY, BECAUSE NOW THERE WILL BE MORE EXPENSES FILED BECAUSE THE PER DIEM IS EASIER TO DO. IT'S BAD. IT'S NOT GOOD. IT'S NOT TRANSPARENT, AND IT SHOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN ADDED TO THIS BILL. I REGRET MY VOTE IN COMMITTEE. I'M ON THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE. IT WAS ONE OF THOSE WHERE ONLY FOUR PEOPLE SHOWED UP FOR THE EXEC ON IT AND I SAT. THEN I MADE ONE OF THE BIGGEST MISTAKES I'VE MADE. COLLEGIALLY STEPPED IN, AND I SAID ALL RIGHT, I'LL GIVE YOU MY VOTE BECAUSE YOU NEED THE FOUR THAT ARE SITTING HERE TO GET IT ON THE BILL. I WISH I'D HAVE NEVER DONE THAT BECAUSE TRANSPARENCY IS A BIG THING THAT I CAME DOWN HERE ON--ACCOUNTABILITY FOR EVERY DIME THAT PEOPLE WORK HARD TO PAY TAXES. THIS PER DIEM IS A BAD IDEA, AND I WILL BRING A BILL NEXT YEAR TO TRY TO REMOVE IT. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN GET IT THROUGH MY OWN COMMITTEE THAT I SIT ON, BUT WE WILL TRY. THIS IS NOT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHERE YOU HAVE A BOSS LOOKING OVER YOU MAKING SURE THAT YOU DO NOT LIE. AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THEY DO THERE THE WAY GOVERNMENT IS RUN NOWADAYS. BUT WE HAD A GOOD SYSTEM. YOU HAD TO SHOW YOUR TICKETS. MY CONSTITUENTS COULD GET A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND SEE WHERE I SPENT MONEY. DID I EAT AT McDONALD'S OR EAT AT A FIVE-STAR RESTAURANT? DID I STAY AT SUPER 8 OR DID I STAY AT THE HILTON? NOW WE HAVE A PER DIEM, WE DON'T KNOW. THEY WON'T KNOW. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THIS EVER GOT IN HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE OR WHY IT WAS EVEN BROUGHT FORWARD. BUT I WOULD ASK YOU TO VOTE NO ON THIS, EVEN THOUGH THERE'S AN AWFUL LOT OF GOOD STUFF IN THIS ORIGINAL BILL FOR THE AUDITOR TO HAVE MORE TRANSPARENCY. AS I SAID TO MY CONSTITUENTS, I WILL STAND UP AND I WILL MAKE SURE WE HAVE TRANSPARENCY. SO I COULDN'T SIT THERE AND WATCH THIS THING FLY THROUGH. WHEN WORDS WERE SAID ON SELECT THAT THERE MIGHT BE AN AMENDMENT, IT NEVER SHOWED UP. SO I VOTED TO HELP GET IT THROUGH, OR MAYBE I DIDN'T, I CAN'T REMEMBER, BUT I DIDN'T FIGHT IT ANYMORE. SO I

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WOULD ASK YOU TO VOTE RED. MAYBE WE CAN LEAVE THIS PLACE THE LAST COUPLE DAYS WITH A LITTLE INTEGRITY, A LITTLE RESPECT FROM THE PEOPLE OUT THERE, SOME OF THE RULES AND THINGS WE'VE DONE HERE THIS YEAR-- BENDING RULES. AT THAT, I WITHDRAW THE MOTION. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB935]

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. CLERK, WE WILL RETURN TO THE BILL. [LB935]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (READ LB935 ON FINAL READING.) [LB935]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB935 PASS? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB935]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1580.) 37 AYES, 8 NAYS, 4 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB935]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB935 PASSES. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) MR. CLERK, WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB938. THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB935 LB938]

CLERK: 39 AYES, 1 NAY, MR. PRESIDENT, TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. [LB938]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB938]

CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB938.) [LB938]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB938 PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB938]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1580-1581.) 48 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB938]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: LB938 PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED.
MR. CLERK, THE NEXT BILL IS LB938A. [LB938 LB938A]

CLERK: (READ LB938A ON FINAL READING.) [LB938A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING
BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB938A PASS WITH THE
EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE
OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB938A]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1581-1582.) 49 AYES,
0 NAYS ON THE FINAL PASSAGE OF LB938A. [LB938A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB938A PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED.
WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB1038. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE
WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE
OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB938A LB1038]

CLERK: 43 AYES, 1 NAY, MR. PRESIDENT, TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE
READING. [LB1038]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK,
PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB1038]

CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB1038.) [LB1038]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING
BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB1038 PASS? ALL THOSE IN
FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB1038]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1582-1583.) 48 AYES,
0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB1038]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB1038 PASSES. WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB1038A. [LB1038
LB1038A]

CLERK: (READ LB1038A ON FINAL READING.) [LB1038A]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB1038A PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB1038A]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1583.) 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB1038A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB1038A PASSES. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO LB889. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB1038A LB889]

CLERK: 40 AYES, 1 NAY, MR. PRESIDENT, TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. [LB889]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB889]

CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB889.) [LB889]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB889 PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB889]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1584.) 42 AYES, 5 NAYS, 2 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB889]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB889 PASSES. WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB889A. [LB889 LB889A]

CLERK: (READ LB889A ON FINAL READING.) [LB889A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL BE LB889A PASS? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB889A]

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CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1585.) 43 AYES, 3 NAYS, 3 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB889A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB889A PASSES. WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB959. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB889A LB959]

CLERK: 43 AYES, 1 NAY, MR. PRESIDENT, TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. [LB959]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB959]

CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB959.) [LB959]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB959 PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB959]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1586.) 47 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB959]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB959 PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO LB959A. [LB959 LB959A]

CLERK: (READ LB959A ON FINAL READING.) [LB959A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB959A PASS WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB959A]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1586-1587.) 48 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB959A]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: LB959A PASSES WITH THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE ATTACHED. THE NEXT BILL IS LB745. MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. MR. CLERK. [LB959A LB745]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, IF I MAY, SENATOR CHAMBERS, I HAVE AM2503, AM2504, AM2505, AM2506, AM2507, AM2508, AM2509, AM2510, AM2511, AM2512, AM2515, AM2516, AM2517, AND AM2518, WITH NOTES, SENATOR, YOU WISH TO WITHDRAW. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YES. [LB745]

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. CLERK, THE FIRST VOTE IS TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB745]

CLERK: 44 AYES, 2 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, TO DISPENSE WITH THE AT-LARGE READING. [LB745]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AT-LARGE READING IS DISPENSED WITH. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE TITLE. [LB745]

CLERK: (READ TITLE OF LB745.) [LB745]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ALL PROVISIONS OF LAW RELATIVE TO PROCEDURE HAVING BEEN COMPLIED WITH, SHALL LB745 PASS? ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB745]

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE READ, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1588.) 45 AYES, 3 NAYS, 1 PRESENT AND NOT VOTING, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

SPEAKER HADLEY: LB745 PASSES. WHILE THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION AND CAPABLE OF TRANSACTING BUSINESS, I PROPOSE TO SIGN AND DO HEREBY SIGN LB960, LB960A, LB977, LB977A, LB1022, LB1033, LB1105, LB1105A, LB746, LB746A, LB774, LB774A, LB886, LB886A, LB935, LB938, LB938A, LB1038, LB1038A, LB889, LB959, LB959A, AND LB745 AND LB889A. MR. CLERK FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS. [LB745 LB960 LB960A LB977 LB977A LB1022 LB1033 LB1105 LB1105A LB746 LB746A LB774 LB774A LB886 LB886A LB935 LB938 LB938A LB1038 LB1038A LB889 LB889A LB959 LB959A]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

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CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, BILLS READ EARLIER THIS MORNING ON FINAL READING WERE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR AT 10:06 A.M. (RE LB400, LB400A, LB465, LB465A, LB467, LB467A, LB505, LB505A, LB683, LB722, LB722A, LB754, LB754A, LB803, LB830, LB867, LB867A, LB919, LB919A, LB934, LB934A.) [LB400 LB400A LB465 LB465A LB467 LB467A LB505 LB505A LB683 LB722 LB722A LB754 LB754A LB803 LB830 LB867 LB867A LB919 LB919A LB934 LB934A]

AND, MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR CAMPBELL WOULD MOVE TO RECESS THE BODY UNTIL 12:15 P.M.

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED? WE ARE RECESSED UNTIL 12:15.

RECESS

SENATOR KRIST PRESIDING

SENATOR KRIST: GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND WELCOME TO THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER. THE AFTERNOON SESSION IS ABOUT TO RECONVENE. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. SENATOR HILKEMANN, WOULD YOU APPROACH THE CHAIR, PLEASE. PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK.

CLERK: I HAVE A QUORUM PRESENT, MR. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR KRIST: ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS?

CLERK: I DO. NEW RESOLUTIONS: SENATOR McCOY OFFERS LR624 AND LR625; THOSE WILL BOTH BE LAID OVER. AND THE LAST SET OF BILLS READ ON FINAL READING THIS MORNING, MR. PRESIDENT, WERE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR AT 11:28 A.M. (RE: LB960, LB960A, LB977, LB977A, LB1022, LB1033, LB1105, LB1105A, LB746, LB746A, LB774, LB774A, LB886, LB886A, LB935, LB938, LB938A, LB1038, LB1038A, LB889, LB889A, LB959, LB959A, LB745) THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1589-1590.) [LR624 LR625 LB960 LB960A LB977 LB977A LB1022 LB1033 LB1105 LB1105A LB746 LB746A LB774 LB774A LB886 LB886A LB935 LB938 LB938A LB1038 LB1038A LB889 LB889A LB959 LB959A LB745]

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SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. PER THE SPEAKER'S ORDERS, WE'RE GOING TO GO STRAIGHT TO LR601. SENATOR HILKEMANN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR LR. [LR601]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. LR601 COMES AS A RESULT OF CONVERSATIONS I HAD WITH SEVERAL STATE SENATORS AND VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS REGARDING ESTABLISHING AN ACCREDITED REGIONAL FORENSIC CRIME LAB IN OMAHA. THESE STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDED THE CITY OF OMAHA, UNMC, DOUGLAS COUNTY, THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, THE NEBRASKA HIGHWAY PATROL, THE NEBRASKA ATTORNEY GENERAL, AMONG OTHERS. SO THE QUESTION CAME UP--IF THERE'S GOING TO BE A REGIONAL ACCREDITED CRIME LAB BUILT IN OMAHA, SHOULD THE STATE BE INVOLVED? SECONDLY, IF WE ARE INVOLVED, AT WHAT LEVEL SHOULD WE PARTICIPATE? I HOPE THAT GETTING ALL THE POSSIBLE STAKEHOLDERS TOGETHER AND LEARNING MORE ABOUT THEIR INTERESTS AND NEEDS IN SUCH A PROJECT WILL HELP US ANSWER THESE TWO VITAL QUESTIONS. THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. [LR601]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR HILKEMANN. THE FLOOR IS NOW OPEN FOR DEBATE ON LR601. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LR601]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: JUST A FEW COMMENTS, MR PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I THINK THE RESOLUTION IS VERY GOOD. I WISH THAT I COULD BE ON THE COMMITTEE THAT WOULD LOOK AT IT, BUT I WOULD, MAYBE, BE THE MOST STRAIGHTFORWARD ONE IN SAYING THAT I'M CONVINCED FROM ALL THAT I'VE READ AND WHAT LITTLE I KNOW ABOUT THE NATURE OF ONE OF THESE LABORATORIES IT OUGHT TO BE AT UNMC. FIRST OF ALL, THEY HAVE THE FACILITY THERE. THEY HAVE THE STAFF THERE. THEY HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE TO CONSULT WITH ON THE PREMISES WITH REFERENCE TO ANY MATTER THAT MIGHT COME UP. THE MAYOR, FROM WHAT I READ, IS IN FAVOR OF IT BEING AT UNMC. THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ATTORNEY IS IN FAVOR. AND I WON'T RECITE ALL OF THEIR REASONS, BUT THEY'RE VERY VALID. THE ONLY PERSON WHO REALLY IS SAYING ANYTHING AGAINST IT IS THE DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF. THEY, IN A MOVE THAT I THOUGHT WAS IMPRUDENT, SPENT CLOSE TO \$5 MILLION, WHAT THEY CALL RENOVATING A BUILDING, AND I DON'T THINK THE BUILDING ITSELF WAS WORTH THAT MUCH MONEY. THAT ISSUE, IF IT'S ALLOWED TO LEAD TO A DETERMINATION, WOULD BE PARTISANSHIP...WELL, LET ME NOT SAY PARTISANSHIP, BUT POLITICIZATION OF THIS QUESTION. THAT SHOULD NOT EVEN BE A CONSIDERATION. WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT IS THE NATURE OF THAT LAB, THE WORK IT IS TO DO, THE QUALIFICATION AND CALIBER OF THE PEOPLE

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WHO WOULD BE DOING THIS WORK. AND MAINLY, BECAUSE THE DOUGLAS COUNTY LAB HAS BEEN TOTALLY DISCREDITED TWICE: ONE WHEN DAVID KOFOED PLANTED BLOOD EVIDENCE TO GET TWO INNOCENT YOUNG GUYS, ONE OF THEM VERY SERIOUSLY MENTALLY CHALLENGED, IN A POSITION TO BE CONVICTED OF A MURDER THEY DID NOT COMMIT. THE SHERIFF STOOD BEHIND KOFOED EVEN AS THE EVIDENCE BEGAN TO COME IN AND HE SPOKE HIGHLY OF THIS MAN. THEN ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL HAD SOME PROBLEMS IN THAT LAB. SO THE DISCUSSION, I HOPE, WILL CENTER ON THOSE ACTIVITIES THAT RELATE TO WHAT THE LAB IS TO DO; WHICH LOCATION WOULD BE BEST SUITED TO ACHIEVE THOSE ENDS. HOW I WISH I COULD BE ON THAT COMMITTEE, BUT AS I SAID, MY MIND IS ALREADY MADE UP. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR601]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR HILKEMANN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR LR. SENATOR HILKEMANN WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF LR601. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH TO? PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LR601]

CLERK: 35 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION. [LR601]

SENATOR KRIST: THE RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED. NEXT ITEM. [LR601]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LR547 WAS A RESOLUTION ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED BY SENATOR LARSON. PURSUANT TO ITS INTRODUCTION, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD CONDUCTED A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE RESOLUTION. MR. PRESIDENT, THERE ARE EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS PENDING. (AM2847, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1502.) [LR547]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR LARSON, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR LR. [LR547]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. LR547 IS AN INTERIM STUDY RESOLUTION I INTRODUCED IN AN EFFORT TO FURTHER IDENTIFY THE ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS RELATING TO THE PURPOSE OF WHAT WAS LB1104, A BILL I SUBMITTED WITH THE INTENT TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH, AND STABILITY RELATING TO THE NATIVE AMERICAN RESERVATIONS. THE SANTEE SIOUX INDIAN RESERVATION, THE PONCA HEADQUARTERS, AND A PORTION OF THE WINNEBAGO INDIAN RESERVATION FALL WITHIN THE

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BOUNDARIES OF LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 40. AND AS SUCH, I HAVE BECOME FAMILIAR WITH VAST ARRAY OF ECONOMIC CONCERNS THAT NATIVE AMERICANS FACE ON AN ONGOING BASIS. I HAVE REACHED OUT TO THE TRIBAL LEADERS AND HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH THEM, AS WELL AS THE REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE TRIBES TO DISCUSS THESE FAMILIAR CONCERNS. LB1104 WAS DESIGNATED BY THE STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE AS THEIR PRIORITY BILL FOR THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION AND HAS BEEN SUPPORTED IN GENERAL CONCEPT AND INTENT BY THE INDIVIDUAL TRIBES, THE COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS, AS WELL AS OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. THE BILL HAS EVOLVED FROM INTRODUCTION TO THE MOST RECENT AMENDMENT AND HAS BEEN FINE TUNED TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS THAT WERE PRESENTED PRIOR TO AND PURSUANT TO THE LEGISLATIVE HEARING. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS LEGISLATION WAS SIGNIFICANT UNDERTAKING FOR A 60-DAY SESSION, OF WHICH TIME HAS BEEN MOST VALUABLE. THE PURPOSE OF LR547 IS TO FURTHER EXAMINE, RESEARCH, AND ADDRESS THE INTRICATE DETAILS OF THESE ISSUES THAT PROMPTED THE LEGISLATION THAT WAS LB1104 AND TO FIND WORKABLE SOLUTIONS THAT BENEFIT NATIVE AMERICANS IN NEBRASKA, AS WELL AS THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. LR547 CREATES A SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS TO CONDUCT AND ACCOMPLISH THIS STUDY. THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERATION, AND I WOULD STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU. [LR547 LB1104]

SPEAKER HADLEY PRESIDING

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU FOR YOUR OPENING ON LR547. AS THE CLERK STATED, THERE ARE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. SENATOR KRIST, AS CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON AM2847. [LR547]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT; AND GOOD AFTERNOON, COLLEAGUES AND NEBRASKA. THE EXPLANATION OF THE AMENDMENT IS VERY SIMPLE. THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT CLARIFIES THAT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SHALL APPOINT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO BE KNOWN AS THE TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURE. A SPECIAL COMMITTEE WILL CONSIST OF FIVE MEMBERS AS SET FORTH IN THE AMENDMENT. DRAFT LEGISLATION POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS SHALL BE DEVELOPED BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, ALONG WITH A REPORT NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 15 OF 2016. I WOULD ASK FOR YOUR GREEN VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT AND THE UNDERLYING LR547. [LR547]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AMENDMENT. SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LR547]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. INSOFAR AS THIS DEALS WITH ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF OUR NATIVE NEBRASKA TRIBES, I POINT OUT, ONCE AGAIN TO THIS BODY, SOMETHING THAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN BEGINNING NEXT WEEK AND GOING TO CONTINUE THROUGH THE FIRST OF JULY AND THEN THROUGH THE CAMPAIGN SEASON. WE HAVE SOMETHING THAT WILL DRAMATICALLY, IF IT IS IMPLEMENTED BY THE VOTERS, AFFECT THE VIABILITY AND SUPERSEDE ANYTHING THAT COULD COME FROM THIS PARTICULAR STUDY AT THIS TIME. IN CIRCULATION RIGHT NOW IS A PETITION, WHICH I AM TOLD IS GATHERING SIGNATURES, BUT LAYING RATHER LOW SO THAT IT CAN ESCAPE THE WATCHFUL EYE OF THE LEGISLATURE UNTIL THE LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS. AND THAT PETITION WILL AUTHORIZE GAMING AT...IN CONJUNCTION WITH RACETRACK FACILITIES UNDER A YET UNDISCLOSED DEAL BETWEEN CERTAIN HORSEMEN AND THE INDIAN NATION, AT LEAST ONE OF THEM. IT WILL AUTHORIZE THAT ONLY GAMING UNDER THAT CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, NOT AUTHORIZED BY THE LEGISLATURE, BUT AUTHORIZED BY INITIATIVE, SHALL BE PERMITTED. IT ALSO GOES ON IN A STATUTORY PROVISION THAT ACCOMPANIES IT TO SAY THAT THE STATE RACING COMMISSION WILL GOVERN THE GAMING IN ADDITION TO TWO EXTRA PEOPLE, BOTH OF WHICH HAVE EXPERIENCE OR RELATIONSHIPS TO GAMING OR TO HORSE RACING WILL BE ON THAT COMMISSION; AND IT SETS A TAX RATE. ALL OF THAT IS BEYOND THE POWER OF THE LEGISLATURE TO CHANGE WITHOUT A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY, BECAUSE ANYTHING THAT IMPAIRS THOSE INITIATIVES REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE. IT EFFECTIVELY WILL, IF IT IS PASSED, AND I'M TOLD THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES THAT ARE COMMITTED TO ITS PASSAGE, LARGELY COMING FROM THE NATIVE AMERICAN SECTOR; IF IT PASSES, AND THE POLLING INDICATES IT'S PROBABLY GOING TO PASS BECAUSE WE'VE TURNED A BLIND EYE TOWARDS THE ISSUE, IT WILL DRAMATICALLY AFFECT THE ISSUES OF THIS STUDY. AND AS SUCH, THIS STUDY WILL BE DRAMATICALLY OUTDATED VERY QUICKLY. THE ONLY WAY THAT WE COULD AVOID IT AT THIS POINT IS DOING SOMETHING WE WON'T DO, AND THAT IS REVIVING LR10 AND PUTTING OUR OWN MEASURE ON THE BALLOT, AND WE KNOW THAT WE JUST DON'T DO THOSE THINGS. SO I WOULD SAY THAT LR547 WILL BE A WASTED EFFORT AND SHOULD WAIT UNTIL WE SEE THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION WHICH WILL DRAMATICALLY...OR COULD DRAMATICALLY CHANGE THE PROSPECTS FOR VIABILITY OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES AND THEIR POSITION, THE REVENUE STREAMS, AND THEIR ABILITY TO GARNER INFLUENCE WITHIN THIS BODY BY VIRTUE OF WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE

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RATHER LARGE POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS. SO THIS IS A CONSEQUENCE OF TURNING OUR BLIND EYE TOWARD WHAT THE VOTERS HAVE BEEN DEMANDING FOR YEARS; WHAT, IN FACT, THEY PASSED IN 2004, BUT THE VOTE WAS SPLIT BETWEEN TWO DIFFERENT PROPOSALS, EVEN THOUGH A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE FAVORED ONE OR THE OTHER. SO THIS IS WHERE WE'RE AT ON THIS ONE. THIS STUDY, I DON'T THINK CAN DO ANY HARM, BUT I DON'T THINK IT WILL DO MUCH GOOD. AND IT WILL BE HIGHLY IRRELEVANT, SHOULD THAT INITIATIVE VENTURE BE SUCCESSFUL. WE'RE GOING TO SEE THIS THING EMERGE WITH A GREAT DEAL OF STRENGTH IN ABOUT TEN DAYS. THANK YOU. [LR547]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR KRIST WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION BEFORE THE BODY IS THE ADOPTION OF AM2847. ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LR547]

CLERK: 34 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. [LR547]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED. SENATOR LARSON, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE. [LR547]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WOULD HAVE TO RESPECTFULLY DISAGREE WITH SENATOR SCHUMACHER'S COMMENTS IN TERMS OF WHAT COULD COME OUT OF THIS POSSIBLE STUDY. I UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAS A VERY PERSONAL INTEREST IN GAMING, SPECIFICALLY FROM THE TRIBES, AND THE EFFECTS THAT THAT COULD POSSIBLY HAVE. BUT THIS STUDY COULD HAVE A LOT OF IMPACT, SPECIFICALLY, WHEN WE'RE TALKING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT IS NONGAMBLING RELATED TO THE RESERVATIONS. THESE PLACES, OFTENTIMES, IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA HAVE AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE EASILY OVER 50 TO 70 PERCENT. THERE ARE THINGS THAT WE CAN DEFINITELY DO TO WORK AND TO STUDY ISSUES THAT AREN'T RELATED TO GAMING AND WAYS TO INCREASE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE, ACCESS TO EDUCATION, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER DIFFERENT THINGS THAT AREN'T JUST SPECIFICALLY TIED TO GAMING. SO I UNDERSTAND THAT SOME MEMBERS HAVE A VERY SPECIFIC AND PERSONAL INTEREST IN GAMBLING, SPECIFICALLY, IN TERMS OF THE NATIVE AMERICANS HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO CLASS III TYPES OF GAMBLING THAT CUT INTO CERTAIN TYPES OF BUSINESSES. I UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT THIS DOES HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO A LOT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LR547]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON LR547. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE LR547. ALL IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LR547]

CLERK: 39 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION. [LR547]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED. MR. CLERK, WE WILL NOW RETURN TO THE AGENDA WHERE WE LEFT, ON FINAL READING. MEMBERS, IF YOU WOULD PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR SEATS FOR FINAL READING. [LR547]

SENATOR KRIST PRESIDING

SENATOR KRIST: MR. CLERK, THE NEXT BILL. [LB10]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB10 ON FINAL READING; I DO HAVE MOTIONS. SENATOR COOK WOULD MOVE TO RETURN LB10 TO SELECT FILE FOR A SPECIFIC AMENDMENT. THAT AMENDMENT, SENATORS, AM333. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 691, FIRST SESSION, 2015.) [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR COOK, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN. [LB10]

SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT; AND GOOD AFTERNOON, COLLEAGUES. I RISE TO INTRODUCE AM333 TO LB10. AM333 TO LB10 WOULD PLACE THE QUESTION BEFORE NEBRASKA'S VOTERS, THE QUESTION TO GIVE THEM THE OPTION TO PLACE INTO OUR STATE'S CONSTITUTION THE SPLIT ELECTORAL VOTE SYSTEM WE CURRENTLY ENJOY. THE LANGUAGE READS, "PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF NEBRASKA SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA FOR APPROVAL OR REJECTION:" WE WOULD ADD A NEW SECTION 6 TO ARTICLE XVII, "XVII-6 FOR PURPOSES OF SELECTING PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES, ONE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTOR SHALL BE CHOSEN FROM EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, AND TWO PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS SHALL BE CHOSEN AT LARGE." I OPPOSE LB10 AS DRAFTED BECAUSE SIMPLY PUT, IT IS NOT FAIR OR INCLUSIVE TO NEBRASKA VOTERS, PARTICULARLY THE WIDE RANGE OF VOTERS THAT I HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF REPRESENTING IN LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 13. IN PARTICULAR, IT IS NOT FAIR TO THOSE WHO MAY NOT ADHERE TO THE POLITICAL OPINIONS AND LEANINGS OF THE CURRENT DOMINANT PARTY; AND,

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BY THE WAY, THAT COULD CHANGE AT ANY POINT, AND PEOPLE WHO ARE VOTING FOR THIS SHOULD KEEP THAT IN MIND. ALTHOUGH SPLITTING ELECTORAL VOTES FAILS TO REACH THE FULL IDEAL OF ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE, IT REFLECTS SOME SEMBLANCE OF MAKING EACH PERSON'S VOTE COUNT. THE WINNER-TAKE-ALL SYSTEM SKEWS THE RESULTS AND UNJUSTLY MAKES THE VOTING MINORITY, WHETHER RACIAL, ETHNIC, SOCIAL, OR POLITICAL, UNDER REPRESENTED. WE HAVE HAD A SPLIT VOTE ONCE, NEARLY EIGHT YEARS AGO, WHEN THEN UNITED STATES SENATOR BARACK OBAMA ACTIVELY CAMPAIGNED IN OMAHA AND WON A LONE ELECTORAL VOTE. THE FACT THAT THE VOICES OF NEBRASKANS IN THAT AREA WERE REFLECTED IN THAT LONE ELECTORAL VOTE SHOULD NOT BE USED TO SQUELCH THE CHOICES OF VOTERS. IT IS PATENTLY UNFAIR THAT THOSE VOTES, THOSE VOICES, THOSE WHO REGISTERED THEIR PREFERENCE WOULD BE TOTALLY DISREGARDED BECAUSE RESIDENTS IN OTHER AREAS OF THE STATE CHOSE TO VOTE DIFFERENTLY. THAT WOULD BE AN IDEAL EXAMPLE OF THE CONTINUATION OF DISENFRANCHISEMENT IN OUR STATE. UNDER WINNER TAKES ALL, CAMPAIGNS CAN FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE IN IGNORING ENTIRE CONSTITUENCIES. THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO INCENTIVE TO REACH OUT TO OPPONENTS OR TO BUILD CROSS-PARTY SUPPORT ON THE ISSUES. AND THIS IS WHERE MOST OF OUR CONSTITUENTS ACTUALLY LIVE, SOMEPLACE NOT AT EITHER END OF THE CONTINUUM. THERE IS NO INCENTIVE TO REACH OUT, AND I ADD MY VOICE TO THE POINT THAT BY DIVIDING ELECTORAL VOTES, THERE IS GREATER OPPORTUNITY FOR NEBRASKANS' VOTE TO COUNT IN A CLOSE PRESIDENTIAL RACE. IT IS AN INCENTIVE FOR CANDIDATES FROM BOTH PARTIES TO SPEND TIME AND MORE MONEY HERE IN OUR STATE. MY AMENDMENT, AM333, ENABLES THE PUBLIC, THE ENTIRE PUBLIC, TO HAVE A VOICE IN HOW THEIR VOTES WILL BE COUNTED AND WILL HELP PUT AN END TO THE ROUTINE ATTEMPTS TO STIFLE AND DISCOUNT THE FULL ARRAY OF VOICES OF THOSE WHO HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS FROM THE CURRENT DOMINANT POLITICAL PARTY. IT IS IMPORTANT FOR OUR DEMOCRACY THAT WE HAVE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION. THAT MINORITIES, AND WHEN I SAY MINORITIES I DO NOT ONLY MEAN RACIAL ETHNIC MINORITIES, BUT POLITICAL MINORITIES, SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED. NO REAL DEMOCRACY, NOTHING BUT A FALSE SHOW OF A DEMOCRACY, IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT IT. WINNER-TAKE-ALL AWARDS IS ALL OR NOTHING. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION ALLOWS VOTERS IN A MINORITY TO HAVE A VOTE, TO HAVE A VOICE, TO HAVE THEIR VOTES COUNT. MY AMENDMENT, MY PROPOSED AMENDMENT, AM333 TO LB10, IF ADOPTED, IF ADOPTED BY NEBRASKANS WILL PROTECT AND ENSURE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION. AS YOU MAY RECALL, IN 2011, THIS BODY DISCUSSED THE FACT THAT ONE OF THE STATE PARTIES PASSED A RESOLUTION DESCRIBING

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LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR THIS LEGISLATIVE CHANGE AS A, QUOTE, LITMUS TEST FOR THOSE WHO CLAIM TO BE A MEMBER OF, END QUOTE, THAT PARTY. IT WAS SAID THAT RESOLUTION WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A WARNING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FUNDING SUPPORT FOR THAT PARTY...FROM THAT PARTY FOR SENATORS WHO STRAYED. REVERTING TO WINNER TAKE ALL SMACKS OF PARTISANSHIP THAT IS EVIDENCED BY THE FACT THAT IT HAS BEEN PUSHED BY ONE PARTY 14 TIMES PREVIOUS TO THIS TIME. BY RESTRICTING VOTERS' CHOICES AND UNDERREPRESENTING VOTERS FROM MINORITY WINNER-TAKE-ALL ELECTIONS, IT DEVALUES THE RIGHT TO VOTE, WHICH IS A FUNDAMENTAL DEMOCRATIC RIGHT. THE WINNER-TAKE-ALL SYSTEM RESULTS IN NO CHOICE ELECTIONS WHERE ONE PARTY CAN HAVE A PERMANENT MONOPOLY ON FORMALIZED POWER AND THE WINNER IS, IN EFFECT, PREDETERMINED. ULTIMATELY, WINNER TAKE ALL IS FOR POLITICAL PARTIES AND NOT FOR INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE AND VOTERS. I URGE EACH OF YOU, MY FELLOW SENATORS, TO OPPOSE THE MUTING OF VOICES OF THE VOTING MINORITY. I URGE YOU TO GIVE ALL NEBRASKA VOTERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR PREFERENCE FOR HOW WE MANAGE OUR ELECTORAL VOTES AS THEY RELATE TO PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CHOICES. THIS WOULD BE THE FAIR AND DEMOCRATIC ACTION TO TAKE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR COOK. YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING ON AM333. THOSE WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR KEN HAAR, CHAMBERS, MORFELD, CRAWFORD, BOLZ AND OTHERS. SENATOR KEN HAAR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR HAAR: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY, I STAND IN OPPOSITION TO LB10, AND I WOULD LIKE TO TALK SOME MORE ABOUT NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE. FIRST OF ALL, THE CURRENT SYSTEM DOES NOT ACCURATELY REFLECT THE NATIONWIDE POPULAR VOTE. OF THE 56 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS BETWEEN 1789 AND 2008, THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR ELECTIONS IN WHICH THE CANDIDATE WITH THE MOST POPULAR VOTES NATIONWIDE DID NOT WIN THE PRESIDENCY. SO THE RATE OF SUCH OCCURRENCES IS 1 IN 14, OR 7 PERCENT. AND I WILL, A LITTLE LATER, TALK ABOUT THE POLLING THAT'S BEEN DONE STATE BY STATE; AND WITHOUT EXCEPTION, THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY FEEL THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE THE PERSON WHO RECEIVES THE MOST POPULAR VOTES. THERE HAVE BEEN SIX PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS SINCE WORLD WAR II IN WHICH A SHIFT OF A RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF VOTES IN ONE OR TWO STATES WOULD HAVE ELECTED, AND, OF COURSE, IN 2000 DID ELECT A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WHO LOST THE POPULAR VOTE NATIONWIDE. IN 1976, FOR

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EXAMPLE, JIMMY CARTER LEAD GERALD FORD BY 1,600,000 VOTES NATIONWIDE. HOWEVER, A SHIFT OF JUST 3,687 VOTES IN HAWAII AND 5,559 VOTES IN OHIO WOULD HAVE ELECTED FORD. AS SHOWN, THERE HAVE BEEN ABOUT ONE SUCH NEAR MISS ELECTIONS EACH DECADE. IN 2004, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH HAD A NATIONWIDE LEAD OF 3,012,171 POPULAR VOTES. HOWEVER, THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION REMAINED IN DOUBT ON ELECTION NIGHT BECAUSE IT WAS NOT INITIALLY CLEAR WHICH CANDIDATE WAS GOING TO WIN OHIO'S 20 ELECTORAL VOTES. IN THE END, BUSH RECEIVED 118,785 MORE VOTES THAN KERRY IN OHIO THUS WINNING ALL OF THE STATE'S 20 ELECTORAL VOTES AND ENSURING HIS REELECTION. HOWEVER, IF 59,393 BUSH VOTERS IN OHIO HAD SHIFTED TO KERRY IN 2004, KERRY WOULD HAVE ENDED WITH 272 ELECTORAL VOTES, 2 MORE THAN THE 270 REQUIRED TO BE ELECTED. THE 59,393 VOTERS IN OHIO WERE DECISIVE, WHEREAS BUSH'S NATIONWIDE LEAD OF MORE THAN 3 MILLION VOTES, 3 MILLION POPULAR VOTES, WAS IRRELEVANT. THE ILLUSION OF CLOSENESS IN 2004 RESULTED FROM THE STATEWIDE WINNER-TAKE-ALL SYSTEM, NOT BECAUSE THE ELECTION WAS GENUINELY CLOSE ON THE BASIS OF THE NATIONWIDE POPULAR VOTE. SO ONCE AGAIN, EVEN THOUGH BUSH, PRESIDENT BUSH, WON BY 3,012,171 POPULAR VOTES, IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE OF OHIO SHIFTING THAT 59,000 VOTES IN OHIO THAT GAVE BUSH THE OFFICIAL VICTORY UNDER OUR CURRENT SYSTEM OF THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE. THEN I WOULD LIKE TO JUST TELL YOU THE POLLING THAT'S BEEN DONE IN VARIOUS STATES. RECENT POLLS CONDUCTED BY PUBLIC POLICY POLLING FOR THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE ORGANIZATION SHOW HIGH LEVELS OF PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE FOR PRESIDENT IN BATTLEGROUNDS STATES, SMALL STATES, SOUTHERN STATES, BORDER STATES, AND ELSEWHERE. AND HERE THE DETAILED REPORTS ON THE POLLS... [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR HAAR: THANK YOU. AND I WILL READ THESE. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE EXPRESSING THE DESIRE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE ELECTED BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE: ALASKA, 70 PERCENT; ARIZONA, 67 PERCENT; ARKANSAS, 80 PERCENT; CALIFORNIA, 70 PERCENT; COLORADO, 68 PERCENT; CONNECTICUT, 74 PERCENT; DELAWARE, 75 PERCENT; THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 76 PERCENT; FLORIDA, 78 PERCENT; IDAHO, 77 PERCENT; IOWA, 75 PERCENT; KENTUCKY, 80 PERCENT; MAINE, 77 PERCENT; MASSACHUSETTS, 73 PERCENT; MICHIGAN, 73 PERCENT. AND YOU NOTICE NONE OF THESE ARE EVEN CLOSE TO A 50 PERCENT. THE VAST MAJORITY OF AMERICANS WANT THE PRESIDENT, SURPRISE, ELECTED BY POPULAR VOTE. MASSACHUSETTS, 73 PERCENT; MICHIGAN, 73 PERCENT... [LB10]

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SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB10]

SENATOR HAAR: THANK YOU. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR HAAR. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I AM UNALTERABLY AND DETERMINEDLY OPPOSED TO LB10. IT IS SIMPLY UNFAIR. IT IS UNDEMOCRATIC. AND IT REPRESENTS THE FORMAL POSITION OF A POLITICAL PARTY WHICH DOES NOT EVEN ENJOY, NATIONALLY SPEAKING, 50 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE IN THAT PARTY. AS A MATTER OF FACT, BASED ON A STUDY THAT WAS UNDERTAKEN, TWO-THIRDS OF THE PUBLIC DON'T HAVE RESPECT FOR THAT PARTY. THIS WOULD BE A HIGH NUMBER AMONG THE PARTY ITSELF AND AMONG CONSERVATIVES, I GUESS, OF ANY DESCRIPTION. AND IT'S BECAUSE THAT PARTY HAS ENGAGED IN THE TYPE OF CONDUCT WHICH CAUSES IT TO COME FORTH AS BEING UNDEMOCRATIC, ELITIST, EXCLUSIONARY, INTOLERANT, BIGOTED, RACIST, HOMOPHOBIC, AND ANTIFEMALE. PEOPLE CAN SAY WHAT THEY WANT TO ABOUT HOW GREAT THIS PARTY IS. I DON'T BELONG TO EITHER ONE OF WHAT ARE CALLED THE MAJOR PARTIES. I CANNOT CONSENT TO HAVING MY POSITION DICTATED TO ME BY A GROUP OF PEOPLE SITTING IN SOME ROOM SOMEPLACE WHOSE INTERESTS GENERALLY RUN DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED TO THOSE OF THE PEOPLE AT LARGE. THE QUESTION SHOULD BE ASKED--WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AN ELECTION? THEN WHAT IS THE METHODOLOGY WHICH WOULD BEST CARRY OUT THAT PURPOSE? ELECTIONS ARE HELD RATHER THAN HAVING ONE PERSON WHO COULD BE CALLED A STRONG MAN OR STRONG WOMAN DICTATOR MAKE SELECTIONS AND PICK PEOPLE WHO WOULD HOLD VARIOUS POSITIONS, TITULARLY AT LEAST, BECAUSE THE ONE AT THE TOP WOULD BE THE ULTIMATE AND ONLY MEANINGFUL VOICE. THIS BILL IS GOING TO GO TO CLOTURE, AND WE ALL KNOW THE REAL QUESTION BEFORE US IS WHETHER OR NOT THERE ARE 33 VOTES FOR THIS UNDEMOCRATIC PIECE OF LEGISLATION. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT CAUSES NEBRASKA TO HAVE A MODICUM OF NATIONAL NOTORIETY IS THE FACT THAT THERE IS NO WINNER TAKE ALL WHEN IT COMES TO SELECTING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS. PEOPLE HAVE SAID THAT EVERY STATE SHOULD DO IT THE SAME WAY. WELL, THE ONES WHO PUT TOGETHER THE U.S. CONSTITUTION DID NOT SAY HOW THESE ELECTORS SHOULD HAVE BEEN CHOSEN, SO THERE COULD BE AS MANY DIFFERENT METHODOLOGIES AS THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE...HAVE...AS THERE WOULD BE OF STATES AT THE TIME THAT AN ELECTION FOR PRESIDENT WOULD OCCUR. SO

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THIS NOTION OF EVERYBODY DOING IT THE SAME WAY IS, AS THE BRITISH MIGHT SAY, SO MUCH RUBBISH OR POPPYCOCK. ALL OF US ARE POLITICIANS. ALL OF US KNOW THIS. AND WHEN WE HAVE THESE HIGHFALUTING, HIGH-SOUNDING DISCUSSIONS, SHOWING WHY SOME PEOPLE'S VOTES SHOULD NOT COUNT FOR ANYTHING, WE KNOW THAT IT IS HOKUM. FIRST OF ALL, PEOPLE MAY NOT REALIZE IT, AND DONALD TRUMP DOESN'T EVEN KNOW IT, BUT I AM HIS STATE CAMPAIGN LEADER FOR THE NOMINATION, FOR THE NOMINATION. AND HE... [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...HAS STATED THAT HE DOES NOT LIKE THE METHODOLOGY SELECTED BY THE PARTY WHO WANTS THIS BILL BECAUSE IT IS RIGGED, IT IS FIXED, AND IT'S DESIGNED TO DEPRIVE THE ONE WHO OUGHT TO GET THE NOMINATION OF THAT NOMINATION, THEREBY RENDERING DISFRANCHISED THE PEOPLE WHO VOTED SO THAT HE WOULD BE THE NOMINEE. THAT'S UNFAIR. EVEN A FOOL SPEAKS THE TRUTH ON OCCASION. AND I'M NOT SUPPORTING DONALD TRUMP BECAUSE HE IS RIGHT. HE'S RIGHT WING, OF COURSE. HE IS RIGHT OF RIGHT WING. BUT HE SERVES A WORTHWHILE PURPOSE AND THAT'S TO SHOW WHAT AMERICANS REALLY ARE THINKING WHEN YOU GET TO THE BEDROCK AND ALL OF THE SHAM IS STRIPPED AWAY. THAT'S ONE THING HE HAS DONE. HE IS LIKE A SOLVENT WHO REMOVES A THIN VENEER OF VARNISH AND YOU SEE EXACTLY WHAT THE SURFACE OF THAT WHICH WAS COVERED BY THE VARNISH CONSISTS OF. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR MORFELD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR MORFELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE TODAY IN OPPOSITION TO LB10 FOR SEVERAL DIFFERENT REASONS. FIRST, I THINK THAT ONE OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS THAT WE HAVE IN OUR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, SMALL-D DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, IS THAT THERE IS A LACK OF TRUST IN THE SYSTEM AND THE MECHANISMS IN WHICH OUR REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY FUNCTIONS. AS SOMEBODY WHO TEACHES AN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT CLASS, IT'S A 100 LEVEL CLASS AT DOANE COLLEGE, I SEE THIS PARTICULARLY AMONG THE

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STUDENTS THAT I WORK WITH, IN THAT MANY OF THEM, OFTENTIMES, ARE ACTUALLY MUCH OLDER THAN I AM. I'M USUALLY THE YOUNGEST PERSON IN THE CLASS THAT I TEACH, IRONICALLY ENOUGH, BUT IT'S INTERESTING TO HEAR THEIR DIFFERENT OPINIONS OF OUR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM AND HOW THEY VIEW WHETHER OR NOT THEY TRULY HAVE A VOICE IN THE SYSTEM. AND THE RESOUNDING THEME IS THAT OFTENTIMES PEOPLE FEEL THE SYSTEM IS RIGGED. THAT IF YOU HAVE POWER AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES, YOU CAN HAVE A VOICE. THAT IF YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE POLITICAL POWER FOR WHATEVER REASON, YOU HAVE A VOICE. BUT THE INDIVIDUAL VOTER OFTEN FEELS AS THOUGH THE SYSTEM AND THE DECK IS STACKED AGAINST THEM. I THINK THAT THERE ARE MANY DIFFERENT REASONS FOR THAT. THIS MEASURE IN PARTICULAR ISN'T THE SOLE REASON OR THE SYSTEM OF DIVVYING UP ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTES ISN'T THE SOLE REASON, BUT I THINK IT IS ATTEMPTS AND MEASURES LIKE THIS THAT LEAD TO THE VARIETY AND ACCUMULATION OF REASONS WHY PEOPLE GENERALLY FEEL THIS WAY. FIRST, MONEY AND POLITICS, AND WE CAN GO ON AND ON ABOUT THAT FOR A WHILE, CITIZENS UNITED, BUT MONEY AND POLITICS AND THE UNLIMITED AMOUNT OF MONEY IN POLITICS HAS MANY PEOPLE FEELING AS THOUGH THEY ARE POWERLESS UNLESS THEY HAVE THOSE RESOURCES. SECOND, A LACK OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. AND IN TERMS OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, OFTENTIMES WHEN ELECTIONS ARE CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE, PEOPLE FEEL MORE REPRESENTED. AND WHAT THAT MEANS IS THAT WHEN YOU HAVE SMALLER DISTRICTS THAT REPRESENT INDIVIDUAL VOTERS, THEY FEEL AS THOUGH THEY HAVE MORE OF A VOICE. SO LOOK AT OUR OWN LEGISLATURE, FOR EXAMPLE. I BELIEVE IT'S 39,000 OR SO, PLUS OR MINUS, I THINK IT'S 5 PERCENT, IS THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT WE REPRESENT AS LEGISLATORS. AND FOR THE MOST PART, WHEN I TALK TO PEOPLE, PEOPLE FEEL AS THOUGH THE LEGISLATURE IS FAIRLY REPRESENTATIVE OF NEBRASKANS. IN FACT, THERE WAS A POLL TAKEN NOT TOO LONG AGO THAT SHOWED THAT NEBRASKA'S UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE ACTUALLY HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST APPROVAL RATINGS IN THE COUNTRY IN TERMS OF STATE LEGISLATURES. IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE ACCOUNTABLE TO VOTERS; WE'RE CLOSE TO VOTERS. AND IN TERMS OF BEING ABLE TO GET IN TOUCH, IN TERMS OF RESPONSIVENESS, AND IN TERMS OF HOW MANY VOTERS WE REPRESENT, THAT WAS THE WAY THAT OUR UNIQUE SYSTEM WAS DESIGNED. WE ALSO HAVE THE UNIQUE SYSTEM OF HAVING A SPLIT ELECTORAL VOTE. AND GRANTED, WE MAY BE ONLY ONE OF TWO STATES NATIONWIDE THAT DOES THAT, THAT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT WE HAVE TO CHANGE IT TO BE LIKE ALL THE OTHERS OR THAT WE SHOULD CHANGE IT SIMPLY OUT OF CONVENIENCE OR UNIFORMITY. OUR SYSTEM IS MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VOTERS IN OUR STATE. AND GRANTED, THERE MAY BE

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ONE PARTY RIGHT NOW, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, THAT HAS AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF POLITICAL SUPPORT IN THE STATE. IT COULD VERY EASILY GO THE OTHER WAY, ANOTHER DIRECTION, AND IT MAY NOT BENEFIT THE PARTY THAT I AFFILIATE WITH. BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT WHEN WE'RE MAKING THESE DECISIONS... [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR MORFELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT...WE SHOULD BE MAKING THEM BASED ON WHAT IS MOST REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE. AND IT GOES BACK TO WHY ARE PEOPLE SO MISTRUSTFUL OF OUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS? MONEY AND POLITICS, MEASURES LIKE THIS, I BELIEVE, AND THEN ALSO GERRYMANDERING TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, AS WELL. IN THE END, WE SHOULD HAVE A SYSTEM THAT IS MOST REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE, THAT MAKES THEM FEEL THE CLOSEST TO THEIR GOVERNMENT AND THE MOST IN CONTROL OF THEIR POLITICAL DESTINIES, AS WELL. I THINK THAT THE SPLIT ELECTORAL VOTE HAS WORKED VERY WELL OVER THE PAST FEW DECADES THAT IT'S BEEN IN PLACE, AND THAT I THINK THAT AS NEBRASKANS WE'VE ALWAYS TAKEN PRIDE IN HAVING ELECTORAL SYSTEMS THAT ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE, THAT ARE TRANSPARENT, AND THAT ARE CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB10]

SENATOR MORFELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MORFELD. SENATOR CRAWFORD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE IN OPPOSITION TO LB10. AND I BELIEVE I...IF WE LOOK AT POLLING EVIDENCE WE WOULD SEE THAT IF WE WERE TO PASS AM333, THE VOTERS WOULD CLEARLY SAY THAT THEY DO NOT WANT A SYSTEM LIKE LB10. WE'VE TALKED ALREADY EXTENSIVELY ABOUT WHY LB10 IS NOT GOOD FOR NEBRASKA. PASSING LB10 WOULD MAKE NEBRASKA LESS RELEVANT TO PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, LESS LIKELY FOR CANDIDATES TO VISIT, LESS LIKELY FOR PEOPLE TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY IN OUR STATE TO TALK WITH PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AND BE MOBILIZED AND WORK ON THEIR CAMPAIGNS. BUT WHAT I HAVE TO TALK WITH YOU THIS MORNING IS NEW EVIDENCE THAT I'VE SEEN ABOUT WHAT NEBRASKANS SAY

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THEY WANT. SENATOR HAAR HAS TALKED EXTENSIVELY ABOUT THE SUPPORT ACROSS THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING NEBRASKA, FOR THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE. BUT IN THE POLLING THAT HAS BEEN DONE RELATED TO THAT PROJECT, THEY HAD ACTUALLY A FOLLOW-UP QUESTION IN THAT SURVEY. AND THAT FOLLOW-UP QUESTION ALLOWED...ASKED PEOPLE OF THREE DIFFERENT OPTIONS TO DETERMINE THE ASSIGNMENT OF ELECTORAL VOTE WHICH WOULD THEY PREFER. AND AS SENATOR HAAR NOTED, THE FAR AND AWAY FIRST PREFERENCE THE PEOPLE HAD WAS THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE MECHANISM. BUT WHAT'S RELEVANT FOR OUR DEBATE TODAY IS WHAT NEBRASKANS SAID ABOUT THEIR PREFERENCE BETWEEN KEEPING ELECTORAL VOTES DIVIDED BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, AS WE HAVE IT NOW, OR CHANGING TO THE WINNER-TAKE-ALL SYSTEM. AND WHAT THE POLLS IN 2008 AND 2011 SHOW CONSISTENTLY ACROSS THE BOARD, ACROSS PARTIES, ACROSS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS IS THAT GOING TO THE SYSTEM THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED BY LB10 IS THE LAST CHOICE OF NEBRASKANS. IT IS THEIR LAST CHOICE. THEY WOULD PREFER THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE. THEIR SECOND CHOICE IS THE SYSTEM THAT WE CURRENTLY HAVE. AND THE PERCENT OF NEBRASKANS IN 2008 WHO SAID THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE A STATEWIDE WINNER-TAKE-ALL SYSTEM, AS WE HAVE HERE PROPOSED IN LB10, WAS ONLY 13 PERCENT, ONLY 13 PERCENT. IN 2008, THIS IS DECEMBER OF 2008, ONLY 13 PERCENT OF NEBRASKANS SAID THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE A SYSTEM LIKE LB10. SO THIS IS AN IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF HAVING OUR ELECTORAL VOTES DIVIDED; ONLY 13 PERCENT OF NEBRASKANS SAID THEY WANTED TO GO TO A STATEWIDE WINNER-TAKE-ALL SYSTEM. AT THAT TIME, AND THIS IS NOT ON THE HANDOUT THAT I PROVIDED WITH SOME OF THE OTHER POLLING RESULTS, AT THAT TIME IN DECEMBER OF 2008, EVEN AMONG REPUBLICANS, ONLY 18 PERCENT WANTED TO GO TO A SYSTEM LIKE PROPOSED IN LB10, AND THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF SEEING A SPLIT OF ELECTORAL VOTES, WHILE 24 PERCENT OF REPUBLICANS IN 2008 SAID THAT THEY WOULD PREFER TO KEEP THE SYSTEM THAT ASSIGNS ELECTORAL VOTES BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. IN 2011, THE SURVEY OF NEBRASKANS ASKING THAT SAME QUESTION SHOWED 16 PERCENT PREFERRED THE STATEWIDE WINNER-TAKE-ALL SYSTEM, AGAIN, THE LAST CHOICE; WHILE 27 PERCENT SAID THAT THEY WOULD LIKE THE ELECTORAL VOTES DIVIDED BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. AND AGAIN, IN 2011--I HAVE THE INFORMATION IN A HANDOUT FOR YOU--IN 2011, YOU CAN SEE AGAIN IN ALL PARTIES, IN ALL CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS ASSIGNING ELECTORAL VOTES AS REQUIRED IN LB10... [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

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SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT...IS THE LAST CHOICE. SO IT IS THE LAST CHOICE AMONG REPUBLICANS, AS WELL AS THE LAST CHOICE FOR DEMOCRATS AND FOR NONPARTISANS. MUCH HAS BEEN MADE ABOUT THE IMPACT OF LB10 ON THE THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AND WHETHER LB10 IS GOOD OR BAD FOR FOLKS IN THE THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. SO I WOULD ALSO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT IN THE THIRD DISTRICT, AS WELL, GOING TO THE SYSTEM AS REQUIRED IN LB10 IS CLEARLY THE LAST CHOICE OF NEBRASKANS IN THE THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT AS WELL. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CRAWFORD. THOSE STILL WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR BOLZ, HOWARD, PANSING BROOKS, HANSEN, KINTNER AND OTHERS. SENATOR BOLZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR BOLZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I, TOO, RISE IN OPPOSITION TO LB10, AND I AGREE WITH STATEMENTS MADE EARLIER TODAY THAT OUR CURRENT SYSTEM REPRESENTS THE VALUES OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, OF REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY, AND OF POLITICAL VOICE. I URGE OPPOSITION TO LB10; AND I YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR CHAMBERS, 4:40. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, SENATOR BOLZ. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AGAIN, WHEN YOU HAVE A SYSTEM WHICH SUPPOSEDLY IS REPRESENTATIVE, WHAT KIND OF STATEMENT COULD BE MADE TO SHOW THAT IT, INDEED, IS REPRESENTATIVE? WHEN THE ELECTION IS COMPLETED, WHAT RESULTS SHOULD BE A PORTRAITURE IN MINIATURE OF THE CONSTITUENCY TO BE REPRESENTED? SO WHEN YOU HAVE A SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THERE ARE IDENTIFIABLE CONSTITUENCIES OF SOME DEGREE OF STRENGTH, AND SOME OF THEM ARE FROZEN OUT OF THE SYSTEM, NOT BECAUSE THEY DON'T VOTE, BUT BECAUSE THOSE WHO COMPILE THE SYSTEM FIXES SO THEY'RE VOTING FOR NOBODY. WHEN THE SUPREME COURT WAS DISCUSSING THE ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE PRINCIPLE, IT WAS STATED BY ONE OF THE JUDGES THAT PARTICIPATION IN AN ELECTION COMPRISES MORE THAN PULLING A LEVER ON A VOTING MACHINE OR EVEN MARKING A BALLOT. IT CONSISTS IN HAVING A MEANINGFUL VOICE IN DETERMINING THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION. AND THE CONCLUSION WAS REACHED BY THE COURT THAT WHEN YOU HAVE AN ELECTION OF THIS KIND, THERE SHOULD BE SINGLE MEMBER

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DISTRICTS, AND EACH DISTRICT SHOULD BE ROUGHLY EQUAL IN POPULATION. THERE'S A GUY NAMED ELBRIDGE GERRY WHO CAME UP WITH THE NOTION OF DRAWING BOUNDARIES IN A VERY IRREGULAR, TOTALLY ILLOGICAL MANNER, TO BE SURE THAT THAT RESULTING DISTRICT WOULD REACH OUT AND GET ENOUGH PEOPLE TO WIN. AND THAT WAS CALLED GERRYMANDERING BECAUSE THE RESULTING DISTRICT RESEMBLED A SALAMANDER. SO YOU TOOK GERRY'S NAME AND THE LAST PART OF SALAMANDER AND YOU CAME UP WITH GERRYMANDER. THAT WORD IS USED CONTEMPTUOUSLY BY WHOEVER MAKES USE OF IT BECAUSE IT MEANS THERE IS A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT BY THOSE IN CONTROL TO DRAW BOUNDARIES THAT ARE NOT FAIRLY OR RATIONALLY CONSTRUCTED. SO IN NEBRASKA, THE REPUBLICANS CAN SAY ANYBODY WHO IS NOT A REPUBLICAN CAN VOTE. BUT REPUBLICANS HAVE JUST ADOPTED THE ATTITUDE THAT SOME PEOPLE SHOULD BE VOTING FOR NOBODY. AND THAT WOULD BE THE SITUATION IN THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT IN NEBRASKA. IF NOT ONE REPUBLICAN CAST A VOTE, BUT YOU TAKE ALL OF THE REPUBLICANS STATEWIDE, AND MORE REPUBLICANS VOTE STATEWIDE THAN DEMOCRATS, OR THOSE OF ANY OTHER PARTY, THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT NO REPUBLICANS VOTED IN THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THE ELECTOR TO BE CHOSEN WOULD BE A REPUBLICAN CHOSEN BY THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. AND IT IS SOMEWHAT INTERESTING TO ME THAT THOSE WHO HYPOCRITICALLY CALL THEMSELVES CONSERVATIVES ARE THE ONES WHO ARE MOST DISINGENUOUS, DISHONEST, AND BLATANTLY WILLING TO DEPRIVE PEOPLE OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE, TO MAKE SURE THAT THEIR VOTE DOES NOT COUNT, TO MAKE SURE THAT IF THEY PULL A LEVER, TOUCH A SCREEN, OR MARK A PAPER BALLOT, THEY, IN EFFECT, ARE VOTING FOR NOBODY. AND FOR CONSERVATIVES TO DO THAT MAKES THEM COMPORT WITH THE DESCRIPTION THAT I GIVE: INTOLERANT, BIGOTED, RACIST, SEXIST, HOMOPHOBIC, AND THERE ARE OTHER TERMS THAT COULD BE APPLIED. THE ONLY THING THAT REALLY COUNTS IN DETERMINING A PERSON'S CHARACTER IS HIS OR HER ACTIONS. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

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SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR BOLZ AND SENATOR CHAMBERS.
SENATOR HOWARD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR HOWARD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE IN OPPOSITION TO LB10. AND I WANTED TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MY EXPERIENCES AS A NEBRASKAN WHO COULD NOT GET OUT OF NEBRASKA FAST ENOUGH WHEN SHE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, BECAUSE I WAS THAT KID WHO WAS READY TO SEE THE WORLD AND GO DO AS MANY THINGS AS POSSIBLE. AND THE MINUTE I GOT TO COLLEGE IN MASSACHUSETTS, I REALIZED HOW GREAT I HAD IT WHEN I WAS BACK HOME IN NEBRASKA. AND PEOPLE WOULD ASK ME WHY DO YOU LOVE NEBRASKA SO MUCH? WHY IS OMAHA SO GREAT? AND I WOULD TELL THEM THREE THINGS: I WOULD TELL THEM THAT WE HAVE A UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE THAT ACTUALLY GETS THINGS DONE; I WOULD TELL THEM THAT WE HAVE PUBLIC POWER, WHICH WAS A REALLY EASY SELL IN CHICAGO WHERE THEIR POWER RATES ARE INCREDIBLE; AND THEN I WOULD TELL THEM THAT WE SPLIT OUR ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTES, BECAUSE IT MEANS THAT EVERY PERSON IN NEBRASKA IS WELL REPRESENTED. FOR THAT REASON I WOULD URGE YOU TO VOTE NO ON LB10. BUT I ALSO WORK REALLY HARD TO REPRESENT MY DISTRICT WELL. AND EVERY YEAR I ASK THEM FOR THE ISSUES THAT I KNOW ARE GOING TO BE BIG AND PRESSING AND DIFFICULT CHOICES FOR ME, HOW THEY WOULD LIKE ME TO VOTE. AND THIS YEAR DISTRICT 9 TOLD ME, WITH 72 PERCENT, THAT THEY WOULD NOT WANT ME TO VOTE FOR LB10. AND SO WITH THAT, I RISE IN OPPOSITION TO LB10, AND I WOULD YIELD THE BALANCE OF MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR CHAMBERS, 3:30. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, SENATOR HOWARD. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I GET MAIL FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE. AND ANYBODY WHO WANTS TO SEE A PARTICULAR LETTER THAT I GOT TODAY, I'D COVER UP THE PERSON'S NAME, WHO SAID I SPEAK FOR HER. IT'S REGRETTABLE THAT SOMEBODY SPEAKS MORE FOR HER THAN THE ONE WHO REPRESENTS HER; AND SHE INCLUDED A \$250 CHECK, WHICH YOU CAN SEE. I DON'T ACCEPT MONEY. I DO NOT ACCEPT MONEY WHEN I'M RUNNING FOR REELECTION. I WILL WRITE A COURTEOUS NOTE RETURNING IT AND EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THEIR THOUGHTFULNESS AND THAT THE WAY ELECTIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN AMERICA TODAY, THE WAY PEOPLE SHOW THEIR SUPPORT IS BY MONEY. BUT WHAT MEANS MORE TO ME IS THE THOUGHT THAT A PERSON WOULD HAVE THAT WOULD LEAD TO THE MONEY BEING SENT, SO, IN FACT, I DO NOT NEED THE MONEY. I DO NOT WANT THE MONEY. I WILL NOT ACCEPT THE MONEY. AND I

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WILL RETURN THE MONEY. BUT IF THEY REALLY WANT TO DO SOMETHING, THERE IS A NO-KILL SHELTER CALLED HEARTS UNITED FOR ANIMALS. AND ANYBODY WHO WOULD BE OF A MIND TO SEND ANYTHING TO ME FOR ANY REASON, SEND IT INSTEAD TO HEARTS UNITED FOR ANIMALS. AND I OFTEN GET THESE LETTERS WHERE PEOPLE ARE BEMOANING THE FACT THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVE DOES NOT REPRESENT THEM IN THE WAY THAT I DO; THE ISSUES THAT I ADVOCATE FOR. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THERE'S AN ARTICLE WHICH I'M GOING TO SHARE WITH MY COLLEAGUES TOMORROW ABOUT THE UPSURGE IN THE DEATH OF WHITE WOMEN. AND THIS UPSURGE HAS REALLY CREATED ALARM IN THE RURAL AREAS AND SMALL TOWNS. THAT'S WHERE THE GREATEST UPTICK IN WHITE FEMALE DYING IS OCCURRING. AND IT'S IRONIC THAT THESE ARE THE VERY AREAS WHERE THOSE WHO ARE OPPOSED TO EXTENDING THE REACH OF MEDICAL CARE COME FROM. THAT'S WHY I SAY CONDUCT... [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...ACTIONS ARE MOST IMPORTANT IN DETERMINING A PERSON'S CHARACTER. WHEN PEOPLE ARE ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, THEY SAY A WHOLE LOT OF THINGS. ON THIS FLOOR, A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL SAY THAT THEY'RE SAYING CERTAIN THINGS SO THAT THE PEOPLE WHO SENT THEM DOWN HERE WILL KNOW THEY'RE FIGHTING FOR ONE THING AND ANOTHER. THOSE ARE EMPTY WORDS. WHERE PEOPLE LIVE IS WHERE THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIFE IS CARRIED OUT. AND IF THEY CANNOT AFFORD TO OBTAIN PREVENTIVE MEDICAL CARE BY THE TIME THEY GET A DISEASE OR AN AILMENT, AND THEY DON'T HAVE COVERAGE, THEN MAYBE THEY CAN GET SOME KIND OF CHARITY, MAYBE NOT. BUT PREVENTION IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN CURE. AND ONE OF THE THINGS THAT PARTICULARLY OFFENDED ME WAS THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THESE REPUBLICANS TO ALLOW MEDICAL CARE TO BE EXTENDED TO THE AREAS WHERE WHITE WOMEN ARE DYING FASTER THAN ANY OTHER GROUP. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE IN OPPOSITION OF LB10. AND I JUST DECIDED TO LOOK UP A LITTLE BIT OF OUR HISTORY AND WHAT THOMAS JEFFERSON HAD SAID ABOUT SOME OF THIS. AND SO I WOULD LIKE TO READ YOU SOME INFORMATION THAT WAS QUOTED ON THE HERITAGE

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FOUNDATION'S WEB SITE. "THOMAS JEFFERSON'S FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS CELEBRATED THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION EVER HELD IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD. JEFFERSON BELIEVED THAT ELECTION WAS AS CONSEQUENTIAL AS THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, FOR IT MARKED THE FIRST TIME IN MODERN HISTORY THAT A GOVERNMENT SURRENDERED ITS POWER VIA POPULAR ELECTION. BALLOTS REPLACED BULLETS. THE PARTY VOTED OUT OF OFFICE LEFT VOLUNTARILY AND WAS NOT PERSECUTED. THE ADDRESS APPLIES THE PRINCIPLES OF THE AMERICAN FOUNDING TO THE MOMENTOUS OCCASION OF A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND INTERPRETS THOSE PRINCIPLES IN A SKETCH OF THE LIMITED GOVERNMENT POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN PARTY...DESPITE THE BITTERNESS OF THE CAMPAIGN, JEFFERSON," IN HIS ADDRESS, "POINTS TO COMMON UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES AND A LOYALTY THAT TRANSCENDS PARTISANSHIP. '[E]VERY DIFFERENCE OF OPINION IS NOT A DIFFERENCE OF PRINCIPLE. WE HAVE CALLED BY DIFFERENT NAMES BRETHREN OF THE SAME PRINCIPLE. WE ARE ALL REPUBLICANS, WE ARE ALL FEDERALISTS.' WHATEVER THEIR DIFFERENCES, BOTH PARTIES ARE LOYAL TO THE SAME CONSTITUTION AND ITS PRINCIPLES--THOUGH THEY MAY INTERPRET AND APPLY THEM SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY." JEFFERSON WENT ON TO SAY, "ALL, TOO, WILL BEAR IN MIND THIS SACRED PRINCIPLE, THAT THOUGH THE WILL OF THE MAJORITY IS IN ALL CASES TO PREVAIL, THAT WILL TO BE RIGHTFUL MUST BE REASONABLE; THAT THE MINORITY POSSESSED THEIR EQUAL RIGHTS, WHICH EQUAL LAW MUST PROTECT AND TO VIOLATE WOULD BE OPPRESSION." I WANT TO JUST GO ON AND SAY THAT A SPLIT VOTE HELPS TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY. FURTHERMORE, AND PROBABLY LESS IMPORTANTLY, IT PUTS NEBRASKA IN THE NATIONAL GAME. IT ENCOURAGES GRASS-ROOTS PARTICIPATION. WE ALL KNOW THE ARGUMENTS THAT MORE CANDIDATES HAVE COME THROUGH OUR STATE IN REGARDS TO REPRESENTING THE DIFFERENT PARTIES BECAUSE OF THIS SPLIT VOTE. THOSE ARE DOLLARS TO NEBRASKA. IT'S INFORMATION TO NEBRASKA. IT ALLOWS OUR CHILDREN TO UNDERSTAND AND WATCH THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN NEBRASKA. THE SPLITTING OF VOTES SHOWS THAT NEBRASKA IS INDEPENDENT AND IT'S UNIQUE, JUST AS OUR CURRENT UNICAMERAL SYSTEM DOES THAT. AND AGAIN, I WOULD SAY THAT WE ALL NEED TO BE CAREFUL WHAT WE WISH. NOT TOO LONG AGO, WE HAD AN EVEN PERCENTAGE OF BOTH PARTIES IN THIS LEGISLATURE. SO LEST EVERYONE REST TOO ASSUREDLY THAT YOUR POSITION IS SAFE AND SECURE AND THAT THAT POSITION SHOULD BE PROTECTED AGAINST THE OTHER AT ALL COSTS, IT'S JUST NOT TRUE. I THINK THAT THE FACT THAT THE GRASS-ROOTS ORGANIZING, THE INCENTIVES TO BRING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO THIS STATE ARE ARGUMENTS THAT SUPPORT CONTINUING THIS PROPORTIONAL METHOD OF ALLOCATION OF OUR

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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORAL VOTES. SO I ASK THAT YOU SUPPORT (sic) LB10, MY FRIENDS, AND I GIVE THE REST OF MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR CHAMBERS, ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THANK YOU, SENATOR PANSING BROOKS. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I WOULDN'T CARE WHICH PARTY WAS TRYING TO DO THIS, I WOULD OPPOSE IT. WHEN I RUN, PEOPLE IN MY DISTRICT REFER TO ME AS A MAN OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE AT HEART, AND YET THEY DISAGREE WITH A LOT OF THE POSITIONS THAT I TAKE. THEY KNOW THAT I MEAN TO DO WHAT I BELIEVE IS RIGHT AND THEY SEND ME TO USE MY JUDGMENT. WHEN JIM EXON WAS GOVERNOR, I BELIEVE HE WAS A DEMOCRAT, I WAS THE MOST RELENTLESS FOE THAT HE HAD BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE BONE-HEAD THINGS HE TRIED TO DO. THE SAME WITH BEN NELSON AND BOB KERREY. I DON'T CARE WHAT THE POLITICAL PARTY DESIGNATION IS. I LOOK AT WHAT THEY DO AND THE IMPACT IT'S GOING TO HAVE ON PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO VOICE IN THIS LEGISLATURE AND NO PLACE ELSE. AT SOME POINT I'M GOING TO READ THIS ARTICLE HEADLINED: TWO THIRDS NOW VIEW GOP NEGATIVELY, TO SHOW THAT WHEN THESE PEOPLE STAND ON THE FLOOR AND SAY PEOPLE ARE OUT OF TOUCH, THEY'RE THE ONES WHO ARE OUT OF TOUCH. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THEY ARE THE ONES. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR HANSEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR HANSEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, TODAY I RISE IN OPPOSITION TO LB10, ALTHOUGH I WOULD SUPPORT SENATOR COOK'S AM333. LAST TIME I STOOD ON THE MIKE ON SELECT FILE, I TALKED ABOUT MY EXPERIENCE HEARING THIS BILL IN THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE AND DEBATING IT, AT THAT POINT, THROUGH TWO ROUNDS ON THE FLOOR. AND I KEPT COMING BACK TO THE POINT OF WHO WANTS THIS BILL? I CERTAINLY, NEITHER IN COMMITTEE NOR ON THE FLOOR, HAVE BEEN CONTACTED WITH ANY GREAT GROUNDSWELL OF SUPPORT THAT THIS IS GOING TO...WHAT THE VOTERS WANT, THAT THIS IS GOING TO ENGAGE AND RALLY VOTERS. I CERTAINLY HAVE THAT AND I KIND OF ISSUED A BIT OF A CHALLENGE THAT IF

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THERE WERE ANYBODY IN MY DISTRICT THAT FELT DIFFERENTLY OR I WAS MISREPRESENTING THEM TO PLEASE CONTACT MY OFFICE. I MUST SAY, ACCORDING TO THE E-MAIL TIME STAMP ABOUT A MINUTE AFTER I MADE THAT CHALLENGE I GOT THIS E-MAIL: VERY AGAINST THIS BILL, SENATOR MATT!! EVERY VOTE SHOULD COUNT!! NOT IN SUPPORT IT! FIGHT AGAINST IT! THANK YOU! RANDY AND PAULA. AND FOR THE TRANSCRIBERS OFFICE, THERE ARE ABOUT, OH, THERE'S AT LEAST SEVEN EXCLAMATION POINTS IN THERE. SO COLLEAGUES, THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS I REMAIN IN OPPOSITION TO THIS. I JUST DON'T NECESSARILY SEE THE NEED FOR THIS, THE DESIRE FOR THIS, THE WANT FOR THIS. THAT'S SOMETHING THAT'S REMAINED KIND OF A MYSTERY TO ME THROUGH ALL THE ROUNDS OF DEBATE AND THE COMMITTEE HEARING. I THINK THE POINTS, ESPECIALLY, SENATOR CRAWFORD AND SENATOR MORFELD HAVE MADE THAT THIS SHIFT THAT WE'RE MAKING IS GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION. IF WE WANTED TO START HAVING A LARGER DEBATE ON NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE AND THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT AND THINGS LIKE THAT, I THINK THAT WOULD BE MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF OUR CONSTITUENTS' INTERESTS AND DESIRES. WITH THAT, MR. PRESIDENT, I WOULD YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS, SHOULD HE HAVE ANYTHING TO ADD. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR CHAMBERS, THREE MINUTES. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, SENATOR HANSEN; THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND LET ME BRING SOMETHING RIGHT HOME THAT INVOLVES ME. THERE'S A GUY RUNNING AGAINST ME, SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNOR AND THE HEADS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. THEY GAVE THE NAME OF THE WOMAN, BUT I CAN'T THINK OF HER, I DON'T KNOW THESE PEOPLE. AND HE IS CAMPAIGNING DOWN HERE. I GUESS HE THINKS SINCE YOU ALL HAVE THE APPEARANCE OF NOT LIKING ME, YOU ALL CAN VOTE AGAINST ME WHEN MY ELECTION COMES UP IN MY DISTRICT. WHEN I FIRST RAN FOR THE LEGISLATURE, THE WORLD-HERALD WAS AGAINST ME; THE OMAHA STAR WAS AGAINST ME. IT WAS A GROUP CALLED THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE OF BLACK MINISTERS, THEY WERE AGAINST ME. THE TEACHERS WERE AGAINST ME. THE POLICE WERE AGAINST ME. THE ONLY ONES...OH, AND THE ONE RUNNING AGAINST ME HAD FOR HIS CAMPAIGN...OR HIS TREASURER A GUY NAMED EVERROAD, WHO I BELIEVE WAS THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AT THE TIME, AND HE HAD ANOTHER PERSON FROM THE GOVERNOR'S ADMINISTRATION WHO WAS HIS CAMPAIGN MANAGER. THE ONLY ONES THAT I HAD WERE THE PEOPLE WHO COULD VOTE; AND THAT'S WHAT I LEAVE MY FATE UP TO. I'M NOT GOING TO GO OUT AND TRY TO TELL PEOPLE I'M THIS AND THAT. I WANT MY

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WORKS TO SPEAK, AND AS THEY INTERPRET WHAT I DO, IT'S WHAT SHOULD SPEAK. IT'S UP TO ME TO BEHAVE IN A WAY THAT IS SO CLEAR EVEN A FOOL CANNOT ERR, BUT THERE ARE A LOT OF FOOLS OUT THERE. AND THE PURPOSE OF AN ELECTION IS TO ALLOW THOSE WHO VOTE TO DETERMINE BY A MAJORITY OF VOTE WHO SHOULD BE SENT DOWN HERE. I DON'T HAVE A PROPRIETARY RIGHT TO THIS OFFICE. LONGEVITY DOES NOT GIVE ME ANY INTRINSIC RIGHT TO BE HERE MORE THAN ANYBODY ELSE. THE ONLY RIGHT THAT I HAVE TO BE HERE WILL BE CREATED WHEN A MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO VOTE IN THE DISTRICT SAY I SHOULD COME BACK. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THAT'S WHY I WON'T SPEND MONEY. I WON'T BEG FOR VOTES. I DON'T TELL PEOPLE DON'T VOTE FOR ME, NOT DIRECTLY. BUT I DO TELL THEM--IF YOU DON'T AGREE WITH WHAT I DO AND DON'T LIKE THE WAY THAT I DO IT OR JUST DON'T LIKE ME PERIOD, VOTE AGAINST ME. THAT'S YOUR PREROGATIVE. I WON'T KNOW IT; NOBODY ELSE WILL KNOW IT. SO THAT'S HOW I RUN FOR OFFICE. WHEN I SEE PEOPLE SELLING THEIR SOULS, LITERALLY, BECAUSE THEY FEAR WHAT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WILL DO TO THEM, HOW CAN I HAVE ANY RESPECT FOR THEM? AND WHEN I READ THIS ARTICLE, AS I SAID, YOU'RE GOING TO SEE HOW OUT OF TOUCH THAT PARTY IS WITH ITS OWN RANK AND FILE, NOT JUST THE SO-CALLED PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON, BUT THE PARTY ITSELF. AND DONALD TRUMP PERSONIFIES THE TARGET OF A LOT OF THEIR DISLIKE, BUT HE ALSO IS THE ONE THAT A LOT OF THEM LIKE. THANK YOU. DID YOU SAY A MINUTE, MR. PRESIDENT? [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: I'M JUST ABOUT TO SAY TIME, SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OH, THANK YOU. I'LL STOP HERE. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: OKAY. THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS AND SENATOR HANSEN. SENATOR KINTNER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. AND THOSE STILL WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR KINTNER, COOK, McCOY, CHAMBERS, BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR KINTNER. [LB10]

SENATOR KINTNER: WELL, THIS IS JUST A BRIEF INTERLUDE HERE IN THE DEMOCRATS' FILIBUSTER OR SENATOR CHAMBERS' FILIBUSTER OR THE COMBINED FILIBUSTER OF THE DEMOCRATS AND SENATOR CHAMBERS, AND I'M SITTING HERE LISTENING TO THIS, AND IT'S JUST BECOMING VERY AMUSING. I

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GOT...MY GOOD FRIEND, SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, QUOTING THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION. AND I GUESS THERE IS A CHANCE OF REDEMPTION THERE, MAYBE, YOU NEVER KNOW. BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD SEE THAT HAPPENING. I GUESS SENATOR HOWARD USED TO SIT NEXT TO ME OUR FIRST TWO YEARS, TELLING ME THAT WHEN SHE WAS GOING OFF TO COLLEGE SHE TOLD PEOPLE THAT, JEEZ, WHAT I REALLY LOVE ABOUT NEBRASKA IS THE UNICAMERAL, PUBLIC POWER, AND WE DIVIDE OUR ELECTORAL VOTES BY DISTRICTS. WHEN I WAS 19, I MAYBE HAD A COUPLE DIFFERENT IDEAS OF WHAT I LIKED ABOUT MY HOMETOWN, MY HOME STATE. BUT YOU KNOW, IF I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS NEBRASKA, YOU SAID, YOU KNOW, I LIKE THE UNICAMERAL, I LIKE PUBLIC POWER, I LIKE DIVIDING BY DISTRICT, I WOULD THINK THAT SOUNDS LIKE A SOCIALIST UTOPIA TO ME IF I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS NEBRASKA. AND I THINK LAST TIME THAT WE WERE HERE TALKING ABOUT THIS, 10 OF THE 12 DEMOCRATS SPOKE, AND THEY ALL VOTED AGAINST IT, THAT SOUNDS KIND OF PARTISAN TO ME. EVERY DEMOCRAT OPPOSES THIS, SO WE AREN'T QUITE SURE WHY YET. IT'S BAD FOR DEMOCRACY, VOTES DON'T COUNT, IT WON'T BRING MONEY IN IF WE DON'T DO IT. WE DON'T QUITE HAVE THE REAL REASON. THERE'S GOT TO BE A REASON THAT EVERY DEMOCRAT IS AGAINST THIS AND ALMOST VIOLENTLY AGAINST IT. WE'RE STILL TRYING TO DIG THAT OUT. WE HAVEN'T QUITE GOT TO IT YET. BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIGURE IT OUT ON YOUR OWN. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT, YOU KNOW, WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THESE THINGS, AND WHEN EVERY STATE DOES IT BUT ONE A DIFFERENT WAY, AND WE'RE THE OUTLIER, THERE'S ALWAYS GOING TO BE A REQUEST, NO MATTER WHAT SIDE OF THE AISLE YOU'RE ON, NO MATTER WHAT SIDE OF THE ISSUE YOU'RE ON. IF YOU'RE ON THE OUTLIER SIDE, YOU WANT TO GET BACK WITH EVERYBODY ELSE, FIGURING IF THEY'RE DOING IT THIS WAY, IF IT WORKS FOR THEM IT WILL WORK FOR US. I AM NOT SURE THAT THERE IS A BIG PARTISAN ADVANTAGE TO US, US...AND I SAY US WOULD BE REPUBLICANS, OR THEM, US FOR THEM WOULD BE DEMOCRATS, I'M NOT SURE WHO GETS THE ADVANTAGE OR DOESN'T GET THE ADVANTAGE ALWAYS ON THIS. IT'S ONLY HAPPENED ONE TIME. BUT AT LEAST IF THIS PASSES, YOU WILL HAVE THE MAJORITY WILL OF THE STATE PREVAIL. FOR SOME OF US, WE THINK THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. FOR SOME PEOPLE, THEY THINK IT'S BAD THAT THE MAJORITY WILL PREVAIL. I GUESS WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT HERE IN 48 STATES, IT PREVAILS. AND SO I THOUGHT I WOULD JUST PUT A BRIEF INTERLUDE IN HERE, HAVE A LITTLE DIFFERENT DISCUSSION, TAKE A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT DIRECTION. WE'RE GOING TO GO TWO HOURS ON THIS NO MATTER WHO IS SPEAKING. AND, MR. PRESIDENT, IF I HAVE ANY TIME I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE IT TO SENATOR McCOY. [LB10]

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SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR McCOY, 1:30. [LB10]

SENATOR McCOY: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I DON'T SUPPORT AM333, ALTHOUGH I CERTAINLY DO RESPECT SENATOR COOK'S OPPOSITION TO LB10, AS I DO ANYONE IN THIS BODY, REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL PARTY OR POLITICAL PERSUASION. I DO OPPOSE THIS AMENDMENT, THOUGH, FOR PERHAPS A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT REASON. AS WE ALL KNOW, IF WE THINK BACK TO OUR CLASSES AS SCHOOL CHILDREN, THE... [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR McCOY: THANK YOU...THE ARTICLE II OF THE CONSTITUTION, THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, IS PRETTY CLEAR ABOUT GIVING THE POWER TO LEGISLATURES TO CHOOSE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS AND NOT THE CITIZENS. AND SO...AND THEN IN DUE COURSE, THE SUPREME COURT IN A NUMBER OF CASES, MOST NOTABLY HAWKE V. SMITH, HAVE HELD THAT TO BE TRUE AND THAT IT IS THE POWER AND THE PREROGATIVE OF STATE LEGISLATURES, AS A UNITED BODY, AND EACH STATE TO CHOOSE THAT. SO I APPRECIATE THE OPPOSITION. I UNDERSTAND IT; I RESPECT IT. BUT I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THIS AMENDMENT IS THE RIGHT DIRECTION TO GO, BECAUSE I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE FOUND TO BE CONSTITUTIONALLY SUSPECT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR KINTNER AND SENATOR McCOY. SENATOR COOK, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT; AND THANK YOU, AGAIN, COLLEAGUES. I HAVE SOME MORE INFORMATION ON WINNER TAKE ALL AND I'M APPRECIATING, AFTER A RATHER STRESSFUL AND FATIGUING WEEK FOR ME LAST WEEK, THE TONE OF OUR DEBATE. I AGREE WITH SENATORS McCOY AND KINTNER IN THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO AGREE BY THE END OF THIS TWO HOURS TOGETHER. BUT I DO WANT TO CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE IN THE WAY THAT I STILL CAN FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS AND THAT IS BUT THROUGH USE OF THIS MICROPHONE AND THE TRANSCRIPT WHICH WILL GIVE EVIDENCE OF THE FACT THAT I'M LISTENING TO MY CONSTITUENTS. AND I RECOGNIZE THAT JUST BECAUSE ONE HAPPENS TO BE...TO HOLD A CERTAIN POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, WHICH IS IN GREAT EVIDENCE IN THE GREAT STATE OF NEBRASKA, DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOUR VOICE SHOULD NOT BE HEARD. HERE IS A LITTLE BIT MORE INFORMATION ON WINNER TAKE ALL IN GENERAL. IT'S A TERM USED

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TO DESCRIBE A SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICT OR AN AT-LARGE ELECTION SYSTEM THAT AWARDS SEATS TO THE HIGHEST VOTE-GETTERS WITHOUT ENSURING FAIR REPRESENTATION FOR MINORITY GROUPS. AND, AGAIN, WE USE THE TERM "MINORITY" BROADLY HERE. IN THE UNITED STATES, THESE ARE TYPICALLY SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICT SCHEMES OR AT-LARGE BLOCK VOTING SYSTEMS. UNDER WINNER-TAKE-ALL RULES, A SLIM MAJORITY OF VOTERS--THINK ABOUT IT, IT CAN JUST BE ONE OR TWO VOTERS--CAN CONTROL 100 PERCENT OF THE SEATS, OR IN THIS CASE, ELECTORAL VOTES, LEAVING EVERYONE ELSE EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR EVEN REPRESENTATION OR EVIDENCE OF THE FACT THAT THEY WERE...PARTICIPATED IN THE VOTE THAT DAY. PROBLEMS THIS LEADS TO INCLUDE SEVERE UNDERREPRESENTATION OF WOMEN, COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, THIRD PARTIES, YOUNG PEOPLE; AND LET ME TELL YOU, WHEN YOU WANT TO RUN INTO...FEEL LIKE A REAL DINOSAUR AND RUN INTO PEOPLE THAT ARE EXTREMELY FRUSTRATED WITH THE SYSTEM AND WHETHER OR NOT THEIR VOICES ARE BEING HEARD, LET ALONE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN IT COMES TO POLICY DECISIONS, PRACTICES, RULES AND REGS, YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD FALL INTO THAT CATEGORY...MAJOR PARTY PARTICIPANTS THAT ARE IN AREAS, GEOGRAPHIC AREAS, WHERE ANOTHER PARTY MAY DOMINATE. WINNER-TAKE-ALL ELECTION SYSTEMS DO NOTHING TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATION TO ANY GROUP MAKING UP LESS THAN HALF OF A POPULATION IN THAT GIVEN VOTING DISTRICT. AND THE HIGH PERCENTAGE OF THE VOTE NEEDED TO WIN THAT ELECTION CAN BE A SEVERE BARRIER TO MINORITY CANDIDATES. SINCE MANY AREAS ARE DOMINATED BY A SINGLE POLITICAL VIEWPOINT, WINNER-TAKE-ALL VOTING SYSTEMS WILL OFTEN RESULT IN NO-CHOICE ELECTIONS WHERE ONE PARTY HAS A PERMANENT MONOPOLY ON POWER. AND THAT IS WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE, FRIENDS, POWER AND INFLUENCE. THE GREAT TENET OF THE FOUNDING OF OUR COUNTRY, THE IDEA THAT YOUR VOICE CAN BE HEARD, THAT YOU ARE INCLUDED IN THE POLICY; NOT ONLY THE POLICY DECISION, BUT THAT YOUR SITUATION IS REFLECTED IN THE CONTENT OF THAT POLICY. WINNER-TAKE-ALL VOTING SYSTEMS WILL RESULT IN NO-CHOICE ELECTIONS WHERE ONE PARTY HAS A PERMANENT MONOPOLY ON POWER AND THE WINNER IS EFFECTIVELY PREDETERMINED. IN THE UNITED STATES, TWO IN FIVE STATE LEGISLATIVE RACES GO UNCONTESTED AS A RESULT; AND NEARLY 99 PERCENT OF CONGRESSIONAL INCUMBENTS WIN REELECTION BY VERY LARGE MARGINS. HIGH PERCENTAGE...AND FORGIVE MY USE OF THIS TERM, BUT IT IS INCLUDED IN THE RESEARCH I HAVE IN FRONT OF ME...HIGH PERCENTAGES OF "WASTED VOTES," OR WHAT I WOULD BETTER CALL "VOTES CAST FOR CANDIDATES WHO DO NOT WIN THAT ELECTION." [LB10]

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SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WINNER-TAKE-ALL ELECTIONS FREQUENTLY RESULT IN MORE THAN 50 PERCENT OF VOTES BEING, QUOTE UNQUOTE, WASTED. MORE VOTERS WILL BE REPRESENTED BY SOMEONE WHO THEY DID NOT HELP TO ELECT THAN UNDER ANY OTHER SYSTEM. UNDERVOTING IS ANOTHER POTENTIAL PROBLEM. UNDER AT-LARGE SYSTEMS IN PARTICULAR, VOTERS WHO FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT A SINGLE CANDIDATE WILL BE LIKELY TO, QUOTE UNQUOTE, BULLET VOTE; THAT IS--USE ONLY ONE OF THEIR VOTES TO HELP THEIR PREFERRED CHOICE WIN THE ELECTION. IN THIS WAY, WINNER TAKE ALL DISCOURAGES VOTERS FROM EXPRESSING THEIR FULL RANGE OF POLITICAL PREFERENCES. DECREASED VOTER TURNOUT: WITH LIMITED CHOICE AND A LITTLE CHANCE OF INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF AN ELECTION UNDER WINNER-TAKE-ALL RULES, MANY PEOPLE WILL, UNSURPRISINGLY, CHOOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB10]

SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR COOK. THOSE STILL IN THE QUEUE: SENATOR CHAMBERS, BLOOMFIELD, KEN HAAR, MORFELD, CRAWFORD, AND OTHERS. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I KNOW PEOPLE HAVE BEEN WAITING WITH BATED BREATH FOR THIS ARTICLE TO BE READ, SO NOW YOU MAY EXHALE. THIS COMES FROM THE LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR, DATED FRIDAY, APRIL 8, OF THIS YEAR. HEADLINE: TWO THIRDS NOW VIEW GOP NEGATIVELY. THEN THIS SMALLER: DEMOCRATS ARE CLOSER TO 50/50. IT'S BY STEVE PEOPLES AND EMILY SWANSON OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. "WASHINGTON--A LARGE MAJORITY OF AMERICANS NOW VIEW THE REPUBLICAN PARTY UNFAVORABLY, ACCORDING TO A POLL THAT SUGGESTS DONALD TRUMP COULD BE DRAGGING DOWN THE GOP'S BRAND. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS GfK POLL"--THAT'S PRESS, AND THE 'f' IS SMALL 'f,' CAPITAL 'K,' I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS--"POLL FINDS THAT TWO OUT OF THREE PEOPLE NOW HAVE AN UNFAVORABLE VIEW OF THE PARTY. THE 67 PERCENT NEGATIVE RATING IS UP FROM THE 58 PERCENT WHO VIEWED THE GOP THAT WAY IN OCTOBER 2014. JUST 30 PERCENT OF AMERICANS NOW HAVE A FAVORABLE VIEW OF THE GOP, THE POLL FOUND. THE CHANGE HAS COME AS TRUMP HAS RISEN FROM BUSINESSMAN AND BRASH REALITY

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TELEVISION STAR TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY'S PRESIDENTIAL FRONT-RUNNER. AND IT'S IN CONTRAST WITH PUBLIC OPINION OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, ABOUT WHICH AMERICANS ARE MORE EVENLY DIVIDED. THE NEW POLL FINDS THAT 48 PERCENT HAVE A FAVORABLE VIEW OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHILE 50 PERCENT AN UNFAVORABLE VIEW. THE NUMBERS ARE LARGELY UNCHANGED SINCE OCTOBER OF 2014. MANY MAINSTREAM REPUBLICANS FEAR TRUMP'S COMMENTS ABOUT WOMEN AND MINORITIES COULD DO LASTING DAMAGE TO THEIR PARTY. HE CALLED MEXICANS RAPISTS AND CRIMINALS IN HIS ANNOUNCEMENT SPEECH LAST YEAR, HAS PROPOSED A TEMPORARY BAN ON MUSLIMS ENTERING THE UNITED STATES AND HAS REPEATEDLY MADE DISPARAGING COMMENTS ABOUT PROMINENT WOMEN. HE RECENTLY RETWEETED A PICTURE COMPARING THE PHYSICAL APPEARANCE OF HIS WIFE TO THAT OF RIVAL TED CRUZ...'I DON'T THINK WE CAN BE THE PARTY THAT IS VIEWED AS RACIST AND SEXIST AND WIN NATIONAL ELECTIONS,' SAID KATIE PACKER, A REPUBLICAN OPERATIVE WHO IS LEADING ONE OF THE ANTI-TRUMP GROUPS. 'HE'S SET US BACK SEVERAL DECADES.'" I'M DEPARTING. I WASN'T AWARE THAT HE SET THE PARTY BACK. I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST STATING WHAT I'VE ALREADY KNOWN ABOUT THEM AND SEE REPLICATED HERE. CONTINUING THE ARTICLE, "WHILE TRUMP REMAINS POPULAR AMONG A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ELECTORATE, THE POLL FINDS THAT NEGATIVE VIEWS OF TRUMP AMONG ALL AMERICANS HAVE REACHED HISTORIC PROPORTIONS. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT NEGATIVE VIEWS OF TRUMP AND SUCH VIEWS OF THE PARTY COULD BE LINKED. IN OCTOBER OF 2014, SOME 22 PERCENT OF REPUBLICANS AND 34 PERCENT OF SELF-IDENTIFIED CONSERVATIVES REPORTED AN UNFAVORABLE VIEW OF THE GOP. THOSE NEGATIVE NUMBERS HAVE SURGED TO 34 PERCENT OF REPUBLICANS AND 47 PERCENT OF CONSERVATIVES IN THE NEW POLL. AT THE SAME TIME, 43 PERCENT OF THE REPUBLICANS WHO HAVE AN UNFAVORABLE OPINION OF TRUMP ALSO SAY THEY HAVE AN UNFAVORABLE OPINION OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. IT'S THE SAME WITH 59 PERCENT OF CONSERVATIVES WHO HAVE AN UNFAVORABLE OPINION OF TRUMP. THE PARTY HAS RECOVERED FROM HIGH NEGATIVE RATINGS BEFORE. UNFAVORABLE RATINGS OF THE GOP ALSO APPROACHED 70 PERCENT IN OCTOBER AND DECEMBER OF 2013. THAT'S AROUND THE TIME REPUBLICANS, LED BY CRUZ, EMBRACED A PARTIAL SHUTDOWN OF THE GOVERNMENT TO TRY TO BLOCK FUNDING FOR THE FEDERAL HEALTH CARE LAW." MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, THAT ENDS THE ARTICLE. BUT IT SEEMS THAT EVERY TIME THE GOP IS... [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...KNOWN IS TO TRY TO CUT OFF SOME PROGRAM THAT WOULD HELP PEOPLE WHO NEED IT, OR GIVE MORE SUBSIDIES TO FARMERS, RANCHERS, ETHANOL, AND THOSE GROUPS WHO ARE SPECIAL INTEREST AND NOT PARTICULARLY DOING WORK THAT BENEFITS THE PUBLIC AS A WHOLE. I THINK THE REPUBLICANS ARE OUT OF TOUCH. I THINK THERE ARE DEMOCRATS AT THE TOP WHO ARE OUT OF TOUCH. ALL OF THEM ARE WHITE. AND I THINK WHITE PEOPLE WHO ARE AT THE TOP ARE OUT OF TOUCH. THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT THEIR YOUNG PEOPLE DON'T RESPECT THEM, DON'T FOLLOW THEM. THEY WILL GO FOR ALMOST ANYTHING AND ANYBODY WHO IS CONTRARY TO WHAT THE REPUBLICANS, WHO RUN EVERYTHING RIGHT NOW, ARE DOING. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'M GOING TO SUPPORT LB10. MY DISTRICT HAPPENS TO BE MADE UP OF THREE DISTINCT COUNTIES: ONE HEAVILY REPUBLICAN, ONE VERY HEAVILY DEMOCRAT, AND THE OTHER MODERATELY HEAVY DEMOCRAT. I MANAGED TO CARRY ALL THREE OF THEM LAST TIME. BUT HAD I LOST THE DEMOCRAT COUNTY, SHOULD MY OPPONENT HAVE COME DOWN, AND DURING THE 90-DAY SESSION SHOULD HE MAYBE SERVE 30 DAYS AND I GOT 60? THAT'S SPLITTING THE VOTE UP. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING WITH THE NEBRASKA PRESIDENTIAL VOTE UNDER THE PROCESS WE USE NOW. DOESN'T SEEM TO MAKE SENSE TO ME. WE VOTE FOR ONE PRESIDENT. FORTY-EIGHT STATES VOTE AS A BLOC FOR THE STATE. WE'VE OPTED NOT TO DO THAT. TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO WHEN THEY PUSHED THIS IDEA, IT MADE SENSE TO ME, BECAUSE WE WERE TOLD EVERYBODY ELSE WAS GOING TO FOLLOW ALONG. WELL, THEY HAVEN'T. I THINK THEY'RE SHOWING A LITTLE MORE WISDOM. I WONDER IF SENATOR KEN HAAR WOULD YIELD TO A QUESTION. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR HAAR, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB10]

SENATOR HAAR: YES. [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, SENATOR HAAR. YOU QUOTED SOME PRETTY INTERESTING STATISTICS ABOUT STATES THAT LIKE THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE. I THINK YOU SAID KENTUCKY, WAS IT, THAT WAS 80 PERCENT?
[LB10]

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SENATOR HAAR: LET ME GO TO THAT PAGE. KENTUCKY, 80 PERCENT, YEAH.
[LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: AND THERE WERE SEVERAL OTHERS ABOVE 70
PERCENT? [LB10]

SENATOR HAAR: OH, YES, A LARGE NUMBER OF THEM. [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHY THESE STATES THAT SO
LOVE THE IDEA OF THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE HAVEN'T SWITCHED TO THE
SPLIT-VOTE SYSTEM THAT NEBRASKA HAS UTILIZED FOR THE LAST 25 YEARS?
[LB10]

SENATOR HAAR: YEAH, OF COURSE I DON'T, BUT I WOULD... [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: OKAY. THANK YOU, SENATOR. [LB10]

SENATOR HAAR: (LAUGH) [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: COLLEAGUES, EVERYBODY LOVES WHAT WE'RE DOING
BUT NOBODY ELSE WANTS TO DO IT. HUH, KIND OF FUNNY-SMELLING CHEESE,
ISN'T IT? WHY ON EARTH DO NOT ALL THESE BASTIONS OF FAIRNESS COME ON
BOARD WITH US? WE WERE TOLD THAT'S WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN. WE'VE
BEEN DECEIVED, COLLEAGUES. LET'S RECTIFY IT. LET'S PASS LB10 AND GET
BACK TO WHERE THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA VOTE FOR PRESIDENT AS A
MAJORITY OF THE STATE VOTES, AS IT SHOULD BE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.
[LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR KEN HAAR,
YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR HAAR: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY, COULD I ASK SENATOR
BLOOMFIELD A COUPLE QUESTIONS? (LAUGH) [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: GOOD HEAVENS, NO! (LAUGHTER) CERTAINLY. [LB10]

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SENATOR HAAR: WELL, THANK YOU. WE'RE BOTH OUT THE DOOR IN THREE DAYS SO... (LAUGH) [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: TWO AND A HALF, SENATOR. [LB10]

SENATOR HAAR: TWO AND A HALF, WAY TOO LONG. WELL, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU A QUESTION. THE STATISTICS THAT SENATOR CRAWFORD SHARED WITH US IN A POLL THAT WAS TAKEN IN NEBRASKA, IT SHOWED THAT WINNER TAKE ALL WAS FAVORED BY 9 PERCENT OF DEMOCRATS, 20 PERCENT OF REPUBLICANS, 17 PERCENT OF OTHER, I SUPPOSE THE INDEPENDENTS. BUT YET OVERALL, 67 PERCENT BELIEVE WE SHOULD HAVE A NATIONAL... THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE ELECTED BY A NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE. WHY HAVEN'T WE CHANGED TO NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE, TO FOLLOW UP ON YOUR QUESTION? [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: WE'RE SMARTER THAN THAT, SENATOR. [LB10]

SENATOR HAAR: (LAUGH) OKAY. OKAY. WELL, THANK YOU. [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: I WOULD REALLY WANT TO SEE HOW THE QUESTIONS WERE ASKED. THAT WAS A... [LB10]

SENATOR HAAR: YOU BET. I'LL GET YOU THAT INFORMATION, BECAUSE IT'S ALL IN THIS BOOK... [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: YEAH. [LB10]

SENATOR HAAR: ...THE QUESTIONS THAT WAS ASKED... THAT WERE ASKED AND THE RESPONSE TO THAT. SO GOING BACK TO THAT, THERE IS NOT A SINGLE STATE WHERE MORE THAN HALF PEOPLE THINK WE OUGHT TO STICK WITH OUR CURRENT SYSTEM. THE VAST MAJORITY OF AMERICANS AGREE WITH ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO WRITES THE INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK THAT SAYS... AND THIS IS JOHN ANDERSON WHO, BY THE WAY, RAN FOR PRESIDENT AS AN INDEPENDENT. AND LET'S SEE WHAT THE DATE ON THAT WAS... RAN FOR PRESIDENT IN 1980 AS AN INDEPENDENT AND WON 6.6 PERCENT OF THE NATIONAL VOTE. BUT HE SAYS, "I BELIEVE THE OCCUPANT OF THE NATION'S HIGHEST OFFICE SHOULD BE DETERMINED BY A NATIONWIDE POPULAR VOTE BY LEGALLY REGISTERED VOTERS." AND MOST AMERICANS, A VAST MAJORITY

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OF AMERICANS, AGREE WITH THAT STATEMENT. "THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF ALLOCATING ELECTORAL VOTES ON A STATEWIDE WINNER-TAKE-ALL BASIS DIVIDES US ON REGIONAL LINES, UNDERCUTS ACCOUNTABILITY, DAMPENS VOTER PARTICIPATION, AND CAN TRUMP THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE. THE SYSTEM IS NOT BASED ON MAJORITY RULE, AND IT FAILS TO PROVIDE POLITICAL EQUALITY." WHEN I'VE TALKED TO PEOPLE OVER THE MANY YEARS I'VE BEEN IN PUBLIC OFFICE AND IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM, PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT EVERY VOTE SHOULD COUNT AND THAT EVERY VOTE SHOULD BE EQUAL. AND, AGAIN, I'M HOPING THAT AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE THAT SOMEONE IN THIS BODY WILL TAKE UP THE NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE AND TRY TO GET IT THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE. JUST AS AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT, THE PERSON WHO HAS HEADED THIS UP, HIS NAME IS DR. JOHN KOZA. HE RECEIVED HIS PH.D. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE--WELL, HOW CAN YOU TRUST A COMPUTER SCIENCE GUY?--FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN IN '72. HE PUBLISHED A BOARD GAME INVOLVING THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE STRATEGY IN 1966. AND FROM THAT INTEREST, FROM '73 THROUGH '87, HE WAS COFOUNDER, CHAIRMAN, AND CEO OF SCIENTIFIC GAMES WHERE HE COINVENTED THE RUB-OFF INSTANT LOTTERY TICKET USED BY STATE LOTTERIES. IN THE 1980S, HE AND ATTORNEY BARRY FADEM WERE ACTIVE IN PROMOTING THE ADOPTION OF LOTTERIES BY VARIOUS STATES. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR HAAR: AND HIS PASSION AFTER THAT HAS BEEN TO ELECT PEOPLE...TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BASED ON POPULAR VOTE, NOT ON RED STATE VERSUS BLUE STATE, NOT ON ELECTORS AS SUCH, ALTHOUGH IT STILL WOULD BE ELECTED BY ELECTORS, BUT THE STATE AGREEING TO GIVE THEIR ELECTORS TO WHOEVER RECEIVED THE MOST NATIONAL POPULAR VOTES. AND EVERY VOTE WEIGHING THE SAME, EVERY VOTE COUNTED IS WHAT A VAST MAJORITY OF AMERICANS NOT ONLY WANT BUT THEY EXPECT IT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR HAAR. SENATOR MORFELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR MORFELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WOULD SENATOR BLOOMFIELD YIELD TO A QUESTION, PLEASE? [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB10]

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SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: YES, I WOULD. [LB10]

SENATOR MORFELD: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, ARE YOU IN SUPPORT OF OUR UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE? [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: TO SOME DEGREE, NOT 100 PERCENT. [LB10]

SENATOR MORFELD: NOT 100 PERCENT? THANK YOU. [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: YOU'RE WELCOME. [LB10]

SENATOR MORFELD: WELL, AT LEAST HE'S HONEST ABOUT IT. THE POINT THAT I'M TRYING TO MAKE IS THAT NO STATE HAS ALSO ADOPTED OUR UNICAMERAL LEGISLATIVE SYSTEM, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY SENATORS REALLY SCRAMBLING AROUND TO CHANGE THAT OR CALLING IT A DECEPTION ON THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. I THINK THAT IT'S JUST SIMPLY A DIFFERENT WAY OF DOING THINGS. AND JUST BECAUSE WE DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT AND WE HAPPEN TO BE IN THE VAST MINORITY, 1 OUT OF 49 STATES-- I GUESS THERE IS A FEW DIFFERENT TERRITORIES IN THE UNITED STATES THAT HAVE A UNICAMERAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING PUERTO RICO--BUT JUST BECAUSE WE'RE IN THE MINORITY OF STATES IN THE WAY OF DOING SOMETHING DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT IS A BAD WAY OF DOING SOMETHING. IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT'S ANY LESS OR MORE REPRESENTATIVE. IN THIS CASE, I BELIEVE THAT WHEN GOVERNMENT IS CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE, WHEN WE HAVE LESS PEOPLE THAT ARE REPRESENTED BY LESS REPRESENTATIVES, THAT IT IS CLOSER AND MORE RESPONSIVE JUST BY STRUCTURE AND DESIGN; THAT THAT IS A SYSTEM THAT IS MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF THOSE PEOPLE, THAT IS A SYSTEM WHERE VOICES ARE HEARD AND REPRESENTED MORE CLEARLY, AND THAT IS A SYSTEM IN WHICH PEOPLE WILL HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN. AND THAT'S WHY I'M OPPOSED TO LB10. AND WITH THAT, I'LL YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS, IF HE SO CHOOSES. THANK YOU. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR CHAMBERS, 3:15. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, SENATOR MORFELD. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, WE CAN BRING ALL THIS RIGHT HOME. WE CAN LOOK AT HOW SOME OF THE PEOPLE WILL DO ON THIS FLOOR. I HAVE SEEN PEOPLE INSULTED ON THIS FLOOR BY MEMBERS OF THEIR PARTY.

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THE INSULTS WERE MADE OPENLY AND NOTORIOUSLY ON THE FLOOR, NO APOLOGY WAS FORTHCOMING. THIS WAS NOT AN EXPRESSION OF AN OPINION ABOUT HOW SOMEBODY VOTES. IT WAS AN EXPRESSION, A NEGATIVE ONE, ABOUT THE CHARACTER OF INDIVIDUALS, AND THAT WAS MADE CLEAR ON THE FLOOR. BUT THOSE WHO MADE THE DISPARAGING PERSONAL SLIGHTS AND INSULTING REMARKS NEVER SAID ANYTHING TO RECTIFY THAT. SO WHEN THEY STAND UP AND TALK ABOUT HOW GREAT A SYSTEM LIKE THIS IS AND IT REPRESENTS THE PEOPLE AND SO FORTH, IF THEY'RE EXAMPLES OF WHAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD GET, THEN THEY ARE, IN FACT, OUT OF TOUCH. THERE ARE THREE THINGS WHICH REALLY DISTRESSED ME THIS SESSION. I THINK IF YOU PUT TO A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE AN EXTENSION OF MEDICAID COVERAGE, THE PEOPLE WOULD VOTE YES. IF YOU PUT TO THEM TO VOTE WHETHER CANNABIS OUGHT TO BE AVAILABLE FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES FOR THESE CHILDREN, THEY WOULD VOTE YES. AND THE GOVERNOR GOT THEM TO VOTE NO ON ALL OF THAT. I JUST HEARD THIS MORNING BEFORE I CAME DOWN HERE--AND YOU SEE IT ALL THE TIME--THERE WAS A SUBSTANCE FOR PEOPLE WITH DIABETES. IT GIVES A BIGGER AMOUNT OF INSULIN THAN SOME OTHER DEVICE, BUT IT MENTIONED ALL THE THINGS THAT CAN HAPPEN. IT CAN LEAD TO AN ALLERGIC RESPONSE WHICH IS LIFE-THREATENING. IT CAN CAUSE HEART FAILURE IF YOU'VE NEVER HAD HEART FAILURE. THEN IT MENTIONS A WHOLE STRING OF OTHER HURTFUL THINGS AND LIFE-THREATENING SIDE EFFECTS, NONE OF WHICH OBTAINS WITH CANNABIS. CANNABIS WOULD HELP OUR CHILDREN. AND THE PEOPLE ON THIS FLOOR VOTED NO BECAUSE THE GOVERNOR AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TOLD THEM TO VOTE NO. THEY'RE REPUBLICANS. THAT'S WHY THEY'RE OUT OF TOUCH. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THAT'S WHY THEY DON'T HAVE A LOT OF RESPECT FROM THE PEOPLE. I DON'T THINK IT'S JUST BECAUSE SOMEBODY HAS AN "R" IN FRONT OF HIS OR HER NAME. IT IS THE CONDUCT THAT PEOPLE WHO WEAR THAT "R" ENGAGE IN. YOU ALL KNOW IT AS WELL AS I KNOW IT. AND YOU ALL KNOW THE KIND OF THINGS WE OUGHT TO DO AS WELL AS I KNOW THOSE THINGS. BUT YOU VOTE AGAINST IT BECAUSE SOMEBODY WHO'S NOT A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE BUT CARRIES THE "R" IN THE WAY THAT YOU DO SAYS TO VOTE AGAINST IT. I'D VENTURE TO SAY THAT IF THAT BILL HAD BEEN VOTED ON THAT WILL ALLOW PEOPLE TO TAKE DRUGS THAT HAVE NOT MET FDA APPROVAL, TEST DRUGS, EXPERIMENTAL DRUGS, AND DIED, WOULD VOTE AGAINST MY BILL THAT SAYS PEOPLE WHO ARE FACING DEATH WITH FEWER THAN SIX

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MONTHS TO LIVE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET A PRESCRIPTION THAT WILL LET THEM LEAVE HERE GENTLY. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT THIS OTHER... [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...THOSE....OH, I'M SORRY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MORFELD AND SENATOR CHAMBERS. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) THOSE STILL WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR CRAWFORD, PANSING BROOKS, BOLZ, BURKE HARR, MURANTE, AND OTHERS. SENATOR CRAWFORD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. FIRST, I RISE AGAIN IN OPPOSITION TO LB10. FIRST, I'LL ANSWER SENATOR BLOOMFIELD'S QUESTION: IF PEOPLE WOULD PREFER THE ELECTORAL VOTES TO BE SPLIT, WHY DOESN'T IT HAPPEN IN OTHER STATES? WHY HAS NEBRASKA AND MAINE BEEN THE ONLY TWO STATES TO MOVE THIS DIRECTION? AND, COLLEAGUES, THE REASON IT HASN'T HAPPENED IN OTHER STATES IS THAT IN ANY STATE THAT HAS A STRONG MAJORITY, THE TOP PARTY LEADERS OF THE MAJORITY PARTY DO NOT WANT IT TO HAPPEN, REGARDLESS OF WHAT THE CITIZENS WANT TO HAPPEN. AND IN EVERY OTHER STATE BUT NEBRASKA, THE TOP PARTY LEADERS REALLY SHAPE WHO GETS INTO THOSE STATE LEGISLATURES, AND THE PARTY CAUCUSES SHAPE THE VOTES THAT HAPPEN IN THOSE STATE LEGISLATURES. SO WHY WE WERE ABLE TO HAVE THE SPLIT ELECTORAL VOTE IN NEBRASKA AND WHY WE HAVE SUSTAINED IT HAS BEEN, IN PART, BECAUSE WE HAVE A NONPARTISAN UNICAMERAL. AND THAT'S ALLOWED US TO HAVE SENATORS HERE WHO HAVE SOME INDEPENDENCE FROM THOSE TOP PARTY LEADERS WHO WOULD PREFER TO HAVE A WINNER TAKE ALL IN A MAJORITY STATE WHERE THE STATE HAS THE MAJORITY. AND, AGAIN, THOUGH, WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE POLLING DATA AND LOOK AT WHAT REPUBLICAN CITIZENS WANT, YOU SEE THAT MOVING TO LB10 IS THEIR LAST CHOICE. THIS IS NOT BEING DRIVEN BY REPUBLICAN CITIZENS OR THOSE PEOPLE WHO IDENTIFY WITH THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WANTING OR PUSHING THIS. IT IS VERY MUCH BY TOP REPUBLICAN LEADERS PUSHING FOR THIS. I WANT TO ADDRESS THE ARGUMENT THAT HAS BEEN MADE ABOUT

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GETTING CANDIDATES TO SPEND TIME AND ATTENTION IN THE 3RD DISTRICT. WE'VE ALREADY TALKED ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES IN CD-2 OF THE LIKELIHOOD, GREATER LIKELIHOOD THAT CANDIDATES WILL VISIT, SPEND MONEY AND TIME THERE. NOW ONE OF THE ARGUMENTS THAT'S BEEN MADE FOR MOVING TO LB10 IS THAT IT WOULD ENCOURAGE THE CANDIDATES TO VISIT ALL PARTS OF THE STATE. AND THERE'S A QUOTE IN THE ARTICLE IN THE SCOTTSBLUFF STAR-HERALD, SAYS SENATOR McCOY IS QUOTED AS SAYING: WOULDN'T IT BE NICE TO HAVE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES CAMPAIGN IN NORTH PLATTE, CAMPAIGN IN SCOTTSBLUFF, NOT JUST IN OMAHA? AND, COLLEAGUES, MOVING TO A WINNER-TAKE-ALL SYSTEM, AS PROPOSED IN LB10, DOES NOT MAKE A CANDIDATE MORE LIKELY TO VISIT NORTH PLATTE OR BEATRICE OR VALENTINE OR ANY OTHER PART OF CD-3. IN AN ELECTORAL SYSTEM, IF YOU'RE CONCERNED ABOUT URBAN CONCENTRATION OF VOTES, THE WAY YOU HANDLE THAT SITUATION IS TO DIVIDE UP THE JURISDICTION INTO COMPONENTS. SO THAT'S WHY WE HAVE THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE, IN PART, IS A RECOGNITION THAT IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE THEN OUR URBAN CENTERS IN NEW YORK AND CALIFORNIA WOULD DRIVE THE POPULAR VOTE. AND ALL SOMEONE WOULD HAVE TO DO IS CAMPAIGN IN THE URBAN CENTERS, AND THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO GET ENOUGH VOTES TO WIN. SO WE DIVIDE UP THE VOTE, THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE, TO TRY TO CREATE MORE ATTENTION ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND ATTENTION IN RURAL AREAS AS WELL AS URBAN AREAS. AND SO, COLLEAGUES, IF YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF WE GO TO A WINNER-TAKE-ALL VOTE, WHERE WILL CANDIDATES SPEND THEIR ATTENTION? AND WHAT I HAVE ON THE BACK SIDE OF THE HANDOUT THAT I GAVE YOU THAT HAD THE POLLING RESULTS IS A MAP OF OUR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS IN NEBRASKA. NOW, COLLEAGUES, REMEMBER THAT EACH OF THESE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS HAS ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE VOTERS OF NEBRASKA. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. SO IF YOU ARE A CANDIDATE AND YOU WANT TO WIN ENOUGH VOTES IN NEBRASKA TO WIN WINNER TAKE ALL AND BE ABLE TO SECURE ALL FIVE ELECTORAL VOTES, WANT YOU TO LOOK AT THIS MAP AND SEE WHERE YOU WOULD SPEND YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION. IN A WINNER-TAKE-ALL SYSTEM, IT IS MORE LIKELY THAT IF A CANDIDATE WERE TO VISIT, WHICH IS LESS LIKELY TO HAPPEN IN THE FIRST PLACE IN A WINNER-TAKE-ALL SYSTEM, BUT SHOULD A CANDIDATE VISIT IN A WINNER-TAKE-ALL SYSTEM, IT IS EVEN MORE LIKELY THAT THEY WOULD STAY IN THE OMAHA AREA, PERHAPS VENTURE TO THE LINCOLN AREA,

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BECAUSE TWO-THIRDS OF THE VOTERS ARE IN THOSE TWO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS, AND THERE ARE AIRPORTS, EASY ACCESS. SO A WINNER-TAKE-ALL SYSTEM MAKES IT LESS LIKELY THAT A CANDIDATE WOULD VISIT NORTH PLATTE, VALENTINE, ANY OTHER COMMUNITY IN CD-3. DIVIDING UP THE VOTES GIVES YOU YOUR BEST POSSIBILITY TO HAVE A CANDIDATE TO VISIT DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE STATE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CRAWFORD. SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: THANK YOU. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AGAIN, I FIND IT INTERESTING THAT THIS BODY CONTINUES TO MAKE DECISIONS WHICH AT TIMES IGNORE THE NEEDS OF THE MINORITY, WHICH SHUTS ITS EARS TO THE VOICES OF THE MINORITY, WHICH SEES NO ISSUE WITH SILENCING THE VOICES OF MINORITY PEOPLE, FROM LGBT TO RACIAL MINORITIES TO THE UNINSURED TO THOSE WHO ARE IN POVERTY TO EVEN THE DEMOCRATS AMONG US. AND SENATOR KINTNER MENTIONED THAT THIS SEEMS TO BE A LINE OF POLITICAL DIVIDE, AND THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT THAT IS SO. AND IT BECOMES UNFORTUNATE WHEN IT COMES TO BEAR IN THIS BODY, WHICH IS TO BE NONPARTISAN. BUT AGAIN, I WOULD BE RISING WERE THE ROLES REVERSED. I WOULD BE RISING BECAUSE IT'S IMPORTANT THAT MINORITY VOICES ARE HEARD AND REPRESENTED, NO MATTER THE MINORITY, NO MATTER THE SIZE OF THE MINORITY. SO, COLLEAGUES, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL VOTE AGAINST LB10; THAT WERE THE TABLES TURNED YOU WOULD REALIZE THAT YOU, TOO, WOULD WANT TO HAVE A VOICE AND HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REPRESENTATION, HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE ALL CANDIDATES COME TO THIS STATE, TO OUR GREAT STATE. AND I HOPE THAT YOU WILL THINK DOWN IN YOUR HEARTS ABOUT WHAT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO. AND I NOW GIVE THE REST OF MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR CHAMBERS, 3:00. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, SENATOR PANSING BROOKS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I'M IN A BETTER POSITION TO SEE HOW THIS SYSTEM DOES NOT WORK, YET I COME HERE EVERY DAY, EARLIER THAN MOST, STAY LATER THAN MOST, AND WORK HARDER THAN MOST. THAT'S BECAUSE THEY HOLD OUT THROUGH THIS SYSTEM THE POSSIBILITY, EVEN THOUGH SLIM, OF MAKING SOME THINGS BETTER BY GOING THROUGH THIS SYSTEM. BUT WHEN I SEE HOW PEOPLE WITHIN THIS SYSTEM EVEN CUT EACH

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OTHER IN THE BACK, IT COULD MAKE A LESSER PERSON THROW UP HIS OR HER HANDS AND SAY, WHAT'S THE USE? I'M NOT GOING TO SAY THAT THOUGHT DOESN'T OCCUR TO ME, BUT I AM STRONGER AND BETTER THAN THAT. I KNOW WHAT THE PEOPLE WHO SENT ME DOWN HERE WERE LOOKING FOR. THEY'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY THAT THEIR CHILDREN CAN SEE WHO LOOKS LIKE THEM, WHO WILL BE RELENTLESS, WHO WILL BE UNTIRING, WHO WILL BE PERSISTENT, WHO WILL BE FEARLESS, WHO WILL STAND UP FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NO VOICE, WHOEVER THEY ARE. AND THAT'S WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM SOMEBODY WHO REPRESENTS A DISTRICT LIKE MINE--A BURDEN HEAVIER THAN ANYBODY ELSE ON THIS FLOOR WOULD CARRY. SINCE ALL OF YOU ARE THE SAME AS FAR AS RACE, YOUR INTERESTS WILL INTERCONNECT, THEY WILL PARALLEL, THEY WILL OVERLAP. SO IF ONE PERSON DECIDES HE OR SHE IS TIRED, THERE ARE PLENTY TO PICK IT UP. WHEN YOU HAVE ONE VOICE SUCH AS MINE, THAT VOICE MUST ALWAYS BE THERE, PREPARED TO BE HEARD. AND I CAN EVALUATE MORE OBJECTIVELY THAN THE REST OF YOU BECAUSE, TO USE YOUR EXPRESSION, I DON'T HAVE A DOG IN THE FIGHT. I'M NOT PUSHING FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY. AND I NOTICE THINGS THAT MAYBE OTHERS DON'T. WHEN SENATOR KINTNER MENTIONED ALL THE DEMOCRATS ON ONE SIDE OF THIS ISSUE,... [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...WELL, ALL THE REPUBLICANS ARE ON THE OTHER SIDE. SO THEY'RE THE ONES WHO ARE BEING PARTISAN. I HAVE TO LISTEN TO THOSE KIND OF ILLOGICAL ARGUMENTS AND PRECEPTS PUT FORTH AND WILL NOT TAKE THE TIME TO ADDRESS ALL OF THEM. BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WATCH US, AND THEY WONDER. AND IF YOU ALL THINK I'M NOT TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT THESE LETTERS THAT I GET, COME AND SEE. I DON'T KNOW WHY THE REPORTERS HAVEN'T WRITTEN ABOUT THIS GUY RUNNING AGAINST ME. ISN'T THAT NEWS, THAT SOMEBODY THE GOVERNOR SUPPORTS, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY SUPPORTS, IS RUNNING AGAINST A BLACK MAN IN A BLACK DISTRICT AND CAMPAIGNS DOWN HERE IN THE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING? THAT'S NOT NEWS? I SHOULD BE THE ONE SAYING, DON'T GIVE HIM THE COVERAGE. I THINK YOU OUGHT TO. LET PEOPLE KNOW HOW THINGS REALLY ARE DONE HERE. THEN WHEN YOU GET ALL THESE HIGH-SOUNDING ARGUMENTS BY THESE REPUBLICANS ABOUT HOW GREAT THIS SYSTEM IS THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT, YOU CAN JUDGE THE QUALITY OF THE SYSTEM... [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB10]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...BY THE CONDUCT OF THOSE WHO ADVOCATE IT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR PANSING BROOKS AND SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR BOLZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR BOLZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I YIELD MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR CHAMBERS, 4:56. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, SENATOR BOLZ. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, IF YOU ALL WOULD LISTEN TO ME AND HEAR ME, YOU KNOW WHAT I WOULD DO? I WOULD QUOTE A MAN WHO IS FAMOUS BECAUSE WHITE COPS BEAT HIM TO WITHIN AN INCH OF HIS LIFE ON FILM. HE SAID, AFTER ALL OF THAT, WHY CAN'T WE JUST GET ALONG, OR, CAN'T WE JUST GET ALONG? THAT'S THE PROBLEM. WE CAN'T JUST GET ALONG BECAUSE THOSE WHO HAVE THE POWER ARE NOT INTERESTED IN THAT. THE SPEAKER WAS GOING TO OFFER A MOTION THAT WOULD SUSPEND THE RULES. IT WAS NOT DONE. HERE'S THE POINT I WANT TO MAKE FROM THAT. RULES ARE MADE NOT TO PROTECT THE MINORITY BUT TO EMPHASIZE THE OPPRESSION OF THE MAJORITY. WHEN THE RULES THAT THE MAJORITY HAVE PUT IN PLACE, THEY CAN SUSPEND THEM AND DO AWAY WITH THEM. THEY CAN SUSPEND THE RULES, BECAUSE THERE ARE ENOUGH OF THEM. WHEN THEY DON'T WORK FOR THE MINORITY, WE SUFFER A DOUBLE OPPRESSION BECAUSE WE HAVE TO SUFFER UNDER THE OPPRESSION OF THE RULE, BUT WE'RE NOT ABLE TO SUSPEND THE RULE AND SAY WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT APPLY IN OUR SITUATION. AND THAT'S WHAT I OFTEN SAY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SESSION. I HAVE TO COMPLY WITH EVERY RULE, EVERY RULE IN THE BOOK. BUT IF ONE BINDS YOU ALL TOO MUCH, YOU JUST SUSPEND IT. IT DOESN'T COUNT. IT'S AS THOUGH THERE'S NO RULE. SO YOU ALWAYS HAVE THE WINNING HAND. YOU ARE THE HOUSE. YOU ARE THE DEALER. YOU ARE THE RULE MAKER. AND IF YOU SAY FOUR ACES WINS, AND I GOT FOUR ACES, THEY SAY, OH, WELL, THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT IS NOW; WE JUST CHANGED THAT RULE. AND THEN I LOSE, EVEN THOUGH I SHOULD HAVE WON ACCORDING TO THE RULES THAT I WAS TOLD THE GAME IS CONDUCTED ACCORDING TO. SO WHEN THESE CONSERVATIVES DO ALL THIS TALKING ABOUT REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND VOTING AND THE OTHER THINGS THAT THEY TALK ABOUT, THEIR CONDUCT IS SUCH AS TO DISCOURAGE AND GO AGAINST ALL OF THOSE THINGS IN PRACTICE THAT THEY LIONIZE IN THEORY AND DISCUSSION. HOW IS

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IT THAT A SECRETARY OF STATE, AN ELECTION COMMISSIONER WHERE THEY HAVE AN ELECTION COMMISSIONER, OR A CLERK WHERE THEY HAVE NO ELECTION COMMISSIONER AT THE COUNTY LEVEL IS GOING TO KEEP SAYING, COME OUT AND VOTE, WE NEED MORE PEOPLE TO VOTE, WE NEED MORE PEOPLE TO VOTE? BUT THEY WON'T PUT THE CAVEAT: SOME OF YOUR VOTES ARE NOT GOING TO COUNT; JUST COME SO WE CAN HAVE THE NUMBERS AND SAY A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE HERE. PEOPLE GET TIRED OF ENGAGING IN FUTILE ACTION, FUTILE EFFORTS, BEING STEREOTYPED, BEING PIGEONHOLED. DO YOU KNOW IN ALL THE TIME THAT I'VE BEEN IN THE PUBLIC EYE, AND THAT WAS BEFORE I EVEN CAME TO THE LEGISLATURE, THEY ALWAYS HAD TO PUT A LABEL ON ME, "ACTIVIST"--THEY DIDN'T CALL GEORGE BUSH AN ACTIVIST--"BLACK MILITANT FIREBRAND." I DIDN'T START ANY WARS OF PROSECUTE ANY. YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF A WHITE PRESIDENT EVEN REFERRED TO AS A WHITE MILITANT, NOT AS A WHITE FIREBRAND. BUT BLACK PEOPLE AND OTHERS WHOM THEY WANT TO DISPARAGE AND FRIGHTEN PEOPLE WITH A TITLE OR A LABEL WILL BE THE ONES LABELED. AND ONCE THAT LABEL IS ATTACHED, THAT'S ALL THAT'S NECESSARY. YOU TELL PEOPLE THIS DOG HAS RABIES. WHETHER IT DOES OR NOT, THE FEAR IS THERE AND THE PEOPLE WILL KILL THE DOG BECAUSE THE LABEL WAS ATTACHED. PEOPLE REACT TO THE LABEL. THAT'S THE WAY IT'S BEEN WITH ME ALL MY LIFE. BUT IT HASN'T REPRESSED ME. IT HASN'T DAUNTED ME. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: IT STIMULATES ME TO WORK HARDER AND TRY HARDER AND PERSEVERE. AND OCCASIONALLY, THINGS WILL FALL OUT THE WAY THEY SHOULD, BUT I CAN'T COUNT ON THAT. SO WHEN I HEAR THESE REPUBLICANS, AND I READ WHAT THEIR OWN MEMBERS SAY ABOUT THEM, IT SIMPLY CONFIRMS WHAT I HAVE THOUGHT AND WHAT THEIR CONDUCT SHOWS HERE. THIS BILL IS BASICALLY UNFAIR. IT IS DISHONEST. IT IS UNWORTHY OF A DEMOCRATIC, WITH A SMALL "d" FORM OF GOVERNMENT. EVERY VOTE SHOULD COUNT. EVERY VOTER SHOULD FEEL THAT HE OR SHE IS NOT CHASING A WILL-O'-THE-WISP OR A CHIMERA WHEN HE OR SHE CASTS A VOTE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR BOLZ AND SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR BURKE HARR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

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SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. I'VE REMAINED SILENT ON THIS ISSUE FOR A LONG TIME, MAINLY BECAUSE, TO ME, THIS IS NOT A LIFE-OR-DEATH ISSUE. BUT IT DOES SPEAK TO FAIRNESS. AND I GUESS MY QUESTION IS, THE PEOPLE WHO BRING THIS BILL, WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF? COMPETITION IS GOOD. COMPETITION MAKES US STRONGER. IT MAKES US THINK ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE ARE AND WHY WE TAKE THE STANCE WE DO. WHEN WE PASS THIS BILL, IF WE PASS THIS BILL, WE BECOME THE "MR. IRRELEVANT." WE WILL NO LONGER BE TALKED ABOUT. WE WILL NO LONGER HAVE MONEY SPENT IN OUR STATE. WE WILL NO LONGER HAVE CANDIDATES VISIT US. I'M NOT SURE WHY WE WANT TO BE IRRELEVANT. THERE'S A CERTAIN STATE SENATOR WHO TALKED ABOUT MOVING THE DATE OF OUR PRIMARY SO WE COULD BE RELEVANT, SO THAT CANDIDATES WOULD COME TO OUR STATE. AND I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE CANDIDATES COME TO OUR STATE. WE HAVE A LOT TO BE PROUD OF. WE ARE NOT JUST A FLY-OVER STATE. BUT WHEN WE ABDICATE AND WE SAY, WELL, AND ROLL OVER, WE BECOME IRRELEVANT. AND I DON'T THINK THAT'S A GOOD THING. I LIKE COMPETITION. I'M NOT EXACTLY A TYPE A PERSONALITY, BUT I DO ENJOY COMPETITION. I ENJOY THE SPORT. I LOVE THE CHALLENGE. AND SO I REALLY WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT WE CAN DEBATE THIS. AND, LOOK, I WOULD RATHER, IF I HAD A CHOICE BETWEEN NEBRASKA BEING WINNER TAKE ALL OR CALIFORNIA GOING TO PROPORTIONALITY, I'D RATHER HAVE US BECAUSE IT MAY BE ONE DELEGATE SO FAR EVERY 20-SOME, 30-SOME YEARS, AS OPPOSED TO IF CALIFORNIA WENT PROPORTIONAL THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE EIGHT TO TEN CANDIDATES...OR ELECTORAL VOTES THAT WE CHANGE. SO ON A MACRO LEVEL, IT'S BETTER AS A DEMOCRAT, AS A PARTISAN. BUT AS A POLITICIAN, AS A PERSON WHO WANTS TO WORK TO GET THE BEST SOLUTION, WHO WANTS TO FIND WAYS TO WORK ACROSS PARTY LINES, WHO WANTS TO FIND WAYS TO WORK WITH THOSE PEOPLE, EVEN THOUGH I DON'T AGREE WITH THEM BUT KNOWING I HAVE TO WORK WITH THEM SO THAT WE CAN MOVE THIS GOVERNMENT FORWARD, SO WE DON'T END UP LIKE D.C. WHERE LOSER TAKES ALL, WHERE LOSING IS WINNING, OR THE OTHER SIDE NOT GETTING SOMETHING IS WINNING. I'D RATHER GET A LITTLE, GIVE MY OPPONENT SOME, AND MOVE FORWARD AND RULE AND HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE AND NOT HAVE THE SITUATION WE HAVE IN D.C. SO WITH THAT, I WILL NOT...I WILL BE SUPPORTING AM333. I WON'T BE SUPPORTING LB10 BUT NOT ON PARTISAN GROUNDS, ON COMPETITIVE GROUNDS, BECAUSE THAT WHICH DOES NOT KILL YOU MAKES YOU STRONGER. AND WITH THAT, I WOULD ASK SENATOR BLOOMFIELD IF HE WOULD YIELD TO A QUESTION. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB10]

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SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: YES, I WOULD. [LB10]

SENATOR HARR: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU HAVE TWO AND A HALF DAYS LEFT. IS THAT CORRECT? [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: PRETTY CLOSE. [LB10]

SENATOR HARR: WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SING ONE LAST JOHNNY CASH SONG? [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: I HAVEN'T SUNG ONE YET,... [LB10]

SENATOR HARR: OH, ALL RIGHT. WELL, LET ME ASK YOU ANOTHER QUESTION. [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: ...SO I COULDN'T DO ANOTHER ONE. IF YOU'VE NEVER DONE THE FIRST ONE, IT'S HARD TO DO ANOTHER ONE. [LB10]

SENATOR HARR: WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO ONE? [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: I WOULD LIKE TO, BUT I'M UNABLE TO REALLY DO JOHNNY CASH JUSTICE. I TOLD SENATOR CHAMBERS IF HE CAME BACK UP ON OUR FINAL WEDNESDAY AND ASKED I WOULD MAYBE CONSIDER DOING A SONG. BUT HE HASN'T ACQUIESCED TO THAT INVITATION YET. [LB10]

SENATOR HARR: WHAT ABOUT...WILL YOU DO WAYLON JENNINGS? [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: NO. (LAUGHTER) [LB10]

SENATOR HARR: ANY COUNTRY MUSIC? [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: SENATOR, YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR ME SING, I ASSURE YOU. [LB10]

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SENATOR HARR: ALL RIGHT. WELL, BUT I DO WANT TO ASK YOU A SERIOUS QUESTION. YOU WON IN AN AREA THAT IS, AS YOU STATED, PREDOMINANTLY DEMOCRAT. RIGHT? [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THAT'S RIGHT. [LB10]

SENATOR HARR: OKAY. AND YOU WERE COMPETITIVE. AND YOUR THOUGHTS WON, CORRECT? [LB10]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: I DON'T KNOW. I THINK PROBABLY IT WAS MORE MY WIFE'S HARD WORK KNOCKING ON DOORS THAN IT WAS MY THOUGHTS. (LAUGH) [LB10]

SENATOR HARR: FAIR ENOUGH. BUT, FOLKS, THAT SHOWS YOU COMPETITION MADE HIM A BETTER CANDIDATE. HE WAS ABLE TO WIN IN AN AREA THAT IF WE JUST VOTED ALONG PARTISAN LINES HE'D NEVER WIN. COMPETITION IS GOOD. WE HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL RIGHT HERE, I THINK WE'D ALL AGREE, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, WE'RE GOING TO MISS HIM. BUT HE WENT OUT AND HE WORKED HARD AND HE GARNERED THAT...THOSE VOTES AND HE WON. NOW, IF WE AUTOMATICALLY BECOME A FLY-OVER STATE, THERE AREN'T GOING TO BE SENATOR BLOOMFIELDS ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL WHO OUTWORK AND COME TO OUR STATE AND WIN AGAINST THE ODDS IN A DISTRICT THAT IF YOU JUST LOOKED AT THE NUMBERS YOU WOULD SAY THAT PERSON SHOULDN'T WIN. SO I WANT TO LOOK FOR THE BEST IN PEOPLE, AND THAT'S WHY I CAN'T SUPPORT LB10, NOT FOR PARTISAN REASONS BUT FOR PERSONAL REASONS. THANK YOU. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR HARR AND SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR MURANTE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR MURANTE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS, GOOD AFTERNOON. I RISE IN CONTINUED SUPPORT OF LB10 AND IN OPPOSITION TO AM333. THE LAST WEEK HAS BEEN, FOR ME AND MY FAMILY, A CHALLENGING ONE THAT PUTS THINGS IN A LOT OF PERSPECTIVE. ON THURSDAY MY GODMOTHER SUFFERED A STROKE, WAS DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER. WHAT DOCTORS CALLED A MEDICAL MIRACLE, SHE SURVIVED THE WEEKEND. AND

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FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I'VE SAID TO MYSELF, THANK GOD IT'S ONLY CANCER THAT WE'RE DEALING WITH. AND THEN WE COME BACK HERE, AFTER DEALING WITH THAT ALL WEEKEND, AND HAVE A FIERY DISCUSSION ABOUT WHETHER ELECTORAL VOTES SHOULD BE ALLOCATED ON A STATEWIDE BASIS OR A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT BASIS, AND IT PUTS THINGS INTO A LOT OF PERSPECTIVE. I THINK LB10 MAKES SENSE. BUT SENATOR CHAMBERS SAID SOMETHING THAT IS TRUE. SOMETIMES WE GET CAUGHT UP ON THE FLOOR OF THE LEGISLATURE. AND I KNOW I'VE CERTAINLY BEEN A VICTIM OF THAT IN THE PAST. ON SELECT FILE, AS RUMORS WERE BANDIED ABOUT, ABOUT WHETHER PEOPLE WERE GOING TO KEEP THEIR WORD OR WHETHER PEOPLE WERE GOING TO SHOW UP OR THINGS LIKE THAT, RATHER THAN CONTACTING THE MEMBERS DIRECTLY, I STOOD ON THE MICROPHONE AND ISSUED A CHALLENGE AND ESCALATED THE SITUATION AND PROBABLY MADE THE SITUATION WORSE AND MORE DIFFICULT. AND TO THOSE MEMBERS, ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T MENTION ANYONE BY NAME, TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO I IMPLIED WOULD NOT KEEP THEIR WORD, I DO APOLOGIZE FOR THAT. OVER THE WEEKEND I'VE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO A LOT OF THINKING ABOUT A LOT OF DIFFERENT THINGS, AND IT'S...THAT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT I SHOULD HAVE DONE. BUT TO THE PEOPLE WHO OPPOSE LB10, I WOULD LIKE TO IMPLOR YOU TO STOP SAYING THAT IF LB10 PASSES PEOPLE'S VOTES WON'T COUNT. THAT IS EXTRAORDINARILY...THAT IS AN EXTRAORDINARY MESSAGE TO SEND TO THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA. WHY? BECAUSE OUR GOVERNOR IS ELECTED ON A WINNER-TAKE-ALL BASIS. OUR SENATORS ARE ELECTED ON A WINNER-TAKE-ALL BASIS. OUR CONGRESSMEN ARE ELECTED ON A WINNER-TAKE-ALL BASIS. AND IF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE TAKE TO THE FLOOR AND SAY THAT JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE YOU VOTE FOR DOESN'T WIN YOUR VOTE DOESN'T COUNT, YOU ARE ENCOURAGING PEOPLE TO STAY HOME. IT IS THE OPPOSITE OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT. WHETHER LB10 PASSES OR NOT, PEOPLE'S VOTES WILL COUNT. SOMETIMES WE GET LOST IN THE HEAT OF DISCUSSION, BUT WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION AND A RESPONSIBILITY TO BE RESPONSIBLE AND TO SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE THAT ALL PEOPLE'S VOTES COUNT. AND TO THE MEMBERS, THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT THIS ISSUE TO BED. IT'S NOT GOING AWAY. IT'S GOING TO KEEP COMING BACK AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN UNTIL IT PASSES. I THINK WE SHOULD PUT IT TO BED TODAY. I ENCOURAGE THE MEMBERS TO SUPPORT LB10, TO VOTE TO INVOKE CLOTURE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR MURANTE. SENATOR COOK, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. AND THIS IS YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK UNTIL YOUR CLOSING. [LB10]

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SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THIS IS MY THIRD TIME AT THE MICROPHONE ON MY AMENDMENT? ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. GOOD AFTERNOON AGAIN, COLLEAGUES. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF MY OWN AMENDMENT, AM333, AND IN CONTINUED OPPOSITION OF LB10. AND I'LL CONTINUE WITH SOME OF MY ARGUMENTS AGAINST WINNER TAKE ALL BEING...TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CERTAINLY WHAT SENATOR MURANTE HAS SAID ABOUT VOTES COUNTING, ETCETERA. DIVISIVE CAMPAIGNS THAT FAIL TO ADDRESS CHALLENGING ISSUES AND IGNORE ENTIRE CONSTITUENCIES ARE ANOTHER RISK OF THE WINNER-TAKE-ALL PHILOSOPHY. UNDER WINNER TAKE ALL, THERE IS NO INCENTIVE TO REACH OUT TO OPPONENTS OR BUILD CROSS-PARTY SUPPORT. NEGATIVE CAMPAIGNING IS OFTEN A SENSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE STRATEGY IN THIS ENVIRONMENT. WINNER-TAKE-ALL SYSTEMS ARE AN ANACHRONISM IN THE MODERN WORLD AS NEARLY EVERY EMERGING DEMOCRACY HAS REJECTED THEIR USE. THEY WERE INTRODUCED TO THE UNITED STATES BY THE BRITISH DURING THE COLONIAL ERA, INTERESTINGLY, AND ARE VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN IN OTHER DEVELOPED NATIONS. THEIR FAILINGS LIE AT THE ROOT OF MANY OF OUR CURRENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS. MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WINNER TAKE ALL--MY OPPOSITION CONTINUES FOR LB10: NEARLY ALL...THIS IS CALLED: THE CASE FOR PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION VS. WINNER TAKE ALL. "NEARLY ALL ELECTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE BASED ON THE WINNER-TAKE-ALL PRINCIPLE:" TRUE ENOUGH. WE'VE SEEN THAT AND...BUT IT DOESN'T EXIST RIGHT NOW IN NEBRASKA FOR OUR ELECTORAL VOTES. "VOTERS FOR THE CANDIDATE WHO GETS THE MOST VOTES WIN REPRESENTATION; VOTERS FOR THE OTHER CANDIDATES" OFTEN PERCEIVE THAT THEIR VOICE IS NOT BEING REGISTERED. AND CERTAINLY EVERYONE IN HERE CAN AGREE THAT THEIR PERSPECTIVE WILL NOT BE MADE THE TOP PRIORITY FOR POLITICAL, SMALL "p," POLITICAL REASONS. "THIS SYSTEM IS UNJUST AND UNNECESSARY. IT IS UNJUST BECAUSE IT LEAVES MINORITIES", RACIAL OR POLITICAL MINORITIES, UNDERREPRESENTED. "AS JOHN STUART MILL SAID, 'IT IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF DEMOCRACY THAT MINORITIES SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY REPRESENTED. NO REAL DEMOCRACY, NOTHING BUT A FALSE SHOW OF DEMOCRACY, IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT IT.' IT IS UNNECESSARY BECAUSE WE HAVE IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITIES AT LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL LEVELS, TO JOIN THE VAST MAJORITY OF MATURE DEMOCRACIES THAT HAVE ALREADY ADOPTED SYSTEMS OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT ANY GROUP OF LIKE-MINDED VOTERS SHOULD WIN", IN THIS CASE, "LEGISLATIVE SEATS IN PROPORTION TO ITS SHARE OF THE POPULAR VOTE. WHEREAS THE WINNER-TAKE-ALL PRINCIPLE AWARDS 100 PERCENT OF THE REPRESENTATION TO A 50.1 PERCENT MAJORITY,

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PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION ALLOWS VOTERS IN A MINORITY TO WIN THEIR FAIR SHARE OF REPRESENTATION. HOW DOES THIS WORK? A TYPICAL WINNER-TAKE-ALL SYSTEM DIVIDES VOTERS INTO 'ONE-SEAT DISTRICTS,' REPRESENTED BY ONE PERSON. WITH PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION, VOTERS IN A CONSTITUENCY INSTEAD HAVE SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES: TEN ONE-SEAT DISTRICTS MIGHT, FOR EXAMPLE, BE COMBINED INTO A SINGLE TEN-SEAT DISTRICT. A PARTY OR GROUP OF VOTERS THAT WINS 10 PERCENT OF THE POPULAR VOTE IN THIS DISTRICT, THEN, WOULD WIN ONE OF THE TEN SEATS;"... [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. "A PARTY OR SLATE OF CANDIDATES WITH 30 PERCENT OF VOTES WOULD WIN THREE SEATS, ETC. VARIOUS MECHANISMS WORK TO PROVIDE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION, AND THE DETAILS OF DIFFERENT SYSTEMS MATTER." I WILL STOP READING FROM THAT AND JUST OFFER AGAIN MY OVERARCHING REASON FOR MY OPPOSITION TO LB10. OFTEN, AS A RESIDENT OF NEBRASKA, A CITIZEN OF NEBRASKA, I, TOO, LEFT NEBRASKA AND WAS NEVER, EVER, EVER COMING BACK WHEN I LEFT FOR COLLEGE, FOR REASONS THAT I CAN DISCUSS WITH EACH OF YOU INDIVIDUALLY, IF YOU CARE, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED. WHEN I READ A BILL LIKE THIS, IT KIND OF HEARKENS BACK TO THOSE DAYS AT AGE 17 WHEN I PACKED MY BAGS, NEVER TO COME BACK. THE IDEA THAT ONE PERSPECTIVE REIGNS AND THAT OTHER PERSPECTIVES AREN'T NEEDED, NECESSARY, WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN HAVING ANY DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES BECAUSE WE KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU, THAT'S NOT A DEMOCRACY. COLLEAGUES, PLEASE VOTE FOR AM333 AND AGAINST CLOTURE, THE CLOTURE MOTION. VOTE NO ON THE CLOTURE MOTION FOR LB10. THANK YOU. [LB10]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR COOK. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. THIS IS YOUR THIRD TIME. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THE FIRST THING I WANT TO CORRECT IS WHAT SENATOR MURANTE LEFT AS AN IMPRESSION, AND IT'S A MISIMPRESSION. HE SAID WHEN YOU VOTE FOR THE GOVERNOR, WHOEVER GETS THE MOST VOTES WINS. TRUE. THE GOVERNOR IS RUNNING STATEWIDE, STATEWIDE. SO YOU LOOK AT ALL OF THE VOTES CAST, AND WHOEVER GETS THE MOST IS THE ONE WHO WINS. WHEN YOU RUN BY DISTRICT, YOU'RE DIVIDING THE STATE INTO SEGMENTS. AND YOU WOULD NOT SAY, IF PERSON IN

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DISTRICT 1 GOT 30 VOTES AND THE PERSON IN DISTRICT 2 GOT 40 VOTES, THEN THAT ONE IN DISTRICT 2 SHOULD REPRESENT BOTH OF THOSE DISTRICTS, BECAUSE WHEN YOU TOTAL UP ALL THE VOTES BOTH OF THEM GOT, THE ONE IN DISTRICT 2 WOULD HAVE GOTTEN MORE VOTES THAN THE ONE IN DISTRICT 1. THAT DOESN'T EVEN MAKE SENSE. YOU HAVE DISTRICT ELECTIONS. AND THIS IS WHY I FOUGHT SO HARD AND MANAGED TO GET DISTRICT ELECTIONS FOR THE CITY COUNCIL, THE SCHOOL BOARD, AND DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD, IS BECAUSE AS LONG AS THE ELECTION WAS AT LARGE, BLACK PEOPLE'S VOTES DID NOT COUNT. WE COULD ALL VOTE FOR THE SAME PERSON, NEVER GET ENOUGH VOTES TO OVERCOME THE AT-LARGE VOTE OF THOSE WHITE PEOPLE. IT'S BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED BY COURTS, BY PROFESSORS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, EVERYBODY. RUNNING BY DISTRICT FOR THE CITY COUNCIL IS DIFFERENT FROM RUNNING FOR MAYOR AT LARGE. THE MAYOR RUNS IN THE ENTIRE CITY. THE AT-LARGE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE DISTRICTS. SO TO MAKE WHAT SENATOR MURANTE...WORK, JUST DISREGARD THE DISTRICTS ALTOGETHER. THE ONLY REASON YOU HAVE DISTRICTS IN THE STATES IS BECAUSE THE SUPREME COURT SAID THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO GET ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE. SENATOR MURANTE UNDERSTANDS THESE THINGS, BUT HE'S BLURRING THEM. WHY EVEN TALK ABOUT A PERSON VOTING FOR AN INDIVIDUAL BY DISTRICT WHEN, IN FACT, NO MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE IN THAT CONSTITUENCY VOTE FOR THAT PERSON IN THAT DISTRICT, WILL VOTE IN GREATER NUMBERS FOR THAT PERSON IN THAT DISTRICT THAN THE OTHER PARTY WILL, BUT THEY GET NO REPRESENTATION WITH THE ELECTOR BECAUSE STATEWIDE OTHER PEOPLE VOTED MORE THAN THOSE OF YOU IN YOUR DISTRICT? SO THE DISTRICT CONCEPT IS A SHAM IN THIS STATE WHEN WINNER TAKES ALL. DISTRICT ELECTION MEANS WHAT IT SAYS, THAT THE WINNER IN THAT DISTRICT HAS WON MORE VOTES IN THAT DISTRICT THAN THE OTHER PERSON RUNNING IN THAT DISTRICT. OR IF IT HAPPENS TO BE MORE THAN TWO, LIKE AT A PRIMARY, WHOEVER GETS THE MOST VOTES IS THE ONE WHO IS ELECTED OR GOES ON TO THE FINAL, BUT IF YOU TAKE THE TOP TWO, THEN THE TOP TWO. BUT ULTIMATELY, THE FINALIST WHO WINS IS THE ONE WHO GETS THE MORE VOTES IN THAT PARTICULAR DISTRICT. AND IF THE PEOPLE IN THAT DISTRICT WILL HAVE WHAT THEY WANTED ERASED BY THE REST OF THE PEOPLE IN THE STATE OUTNUMBERING THEIR VOTES IN THAT DISTRICT, THEIR VOTE IN THAT DISTRICT, IN FACT, DOES NOT COUNT. IT DOES NOT COUNT, AND EVERYBODY KNOWS IT. AND THAT'S WHY THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WANTS IT THAT WAY. THEY HAVE A CLEAR MAJORITY STATEWIDE, BUT THEY DON'T HAVE A CLEAR MAJORITY IN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 2, SO THEY WANT TO NULLIFY THE ADVANTAGE THAT THE MAJORITY VOTERS... [LB10]

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SPEAKER HADLEY PRESIDING

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...IN DISTRICT 2 HAVE BY MAKING THEIR CANDIDATE, AS FAR AS AN ELECTOR, RUN AGAINST ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE OTHER PARTY THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THAT'S UNFAIR. THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN MAKE IT RIGHT. AND IF IT WERE THE OTHER WAY AROUND--I DON'T BELONG TO ANY PARTY, AS I SAID--I WOULD BE SPEAKING AGAINST IT JUST AS I AM NOW, BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN DISTRICT ELECTIONS. I'M RUNNING IN A LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT. IF THE WHITE GUY BEATS ME, THEN HE SHOULD GET THE SEAT. HE WON IN THE DISTRICT, EVEN IF IT SEEMS LIKE HE SHOULDN'T. AND I DON'T THINK THIS GUY WILL, BUT I STILL THINK THE MEDIA OUGHT TO WRITE A STORY ABOUT HIM AND WHERE HIS MONEY IS COMING FROM AND WHO TOLD HIM TO RUN AGAINST ME. THEY LOVE STORIES LIKE THAT IN OTHER PLACES, BUT IN NEBRASKA, NOT SO. THAT SHOWS THE PAROCHIAL NATURE OF WHAT HAPPENS IN NEBRASKA, OR THEY WOULD HAVE TO WRITE A CERTAIN KIND OF STORY WHICH THE EDITORS SAY, UH-UH, THAT WON'T BE WRITTEN IN THIS PAPER. LOOK AT SOME OF THE THINGS THAT ARE WRITTEN ABOUT IN THE PAPER. THIS IS A SLIGHT DIGRESSION. [LB10]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB10]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HILKEMANN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. IT'S THE FIRST I'VE SPOKEN ABOUT THIS BILL. IT'S MY PRIORITY BILL. WHY DID I MAKE IT MY PRIORITY BILL? BECAUSE I JUST...I DIDN'T LIKE THIS WHEN THIS HAPPENED IN '91 WHEN THIS WAS PASSED, AS JUST A LITTLE OLD COMMON CITIZEN, BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT WHEN IT COMES TO ELECTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A UNIFORM PROCESS IN ALL 50 STATES. I HAVE STUDIED THIS ISSUE. AND WE TALK ABOUT THIS TODAY, THAT WE'RE USING THE TERM "PARTISANSHIP." I WANT YOU TO KNOW--AND I ALSO...AND I TALKED TO FORMER SPEAKER AND SENATOR KRISTENSEN ABOUT THIS--THIS EFFORT IN '91 WAS A BIPARTISAN EFFORT. IT WAS BIPARTISAN BECAUSE THIS WAS THE NEW WAY THAT WE WERE GOING TO BE ELECTING PEOPLE, AND NEBRASKA WANTED TO BE AT THE FOREFRONT. I LOVED IT WHEN SENATOR KRISTENSEN SHARED WITH ME

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THAT ON SELECT FILE IT WAS A SNOWY DAY HERE. THERE WERE 32 SENATORS PRESENT, AND ENOUGH REPUBLICAN SENATORS. SHE BEGGED AND BEGGED AND BEGGED THAT AT LEAST GET THIS TO FINAL READING. AND THEY CROSSED OVER AND THEY GAVE HER ENOUGH ON SELECT FILE TO ADVANCE IT--SENATOR KRISTENSEN SAID, THE DUMBEST THING I DID IN MY YEARS THAT I WAS HERE AT THE LEGISLATURE. I WOULD SAY TO YOU, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT'S BEEN 25 YEARS. THERE'S NO STATE THAT HAS EVEN COME CLOSE TO PASSING THIS. I THINK IT'S ONE OF THOSE EXPERIMENTS THAT'S NOT WORKING. AND I WOULD FURTHER SAY THAT IF IT WAS GOING TO WORK, WE HAD DEMONSTRATED IN '08 THAT IT COULD WORK BY GIVING ONE OF OUR ELECTORAL VOTES TO THE PRESIDENT. NOT A SINGLE STATE AFTER THAT OCCURRED SAID LET'S GO BACK AND RELOOK AT DISTRICT ELECTIONS, MAYBE IT WILL WORK. SO I WOULD IMPLORE YOU, MEMBERS OF THIS BODY, IT'S NOT TOO LATE! WE CAN MAKE IT A BIPARTISAN EFFORT TO REMOVE THIS LEGISLATION AND RETURN NEBRASKA TO THE REST OF THE 49 STATES, AND WE'LL LET MAINE OUT THERE AND MAYBE THEY'LL COME ALONG WITH US, AND LET'S RETURN NEBRASKA TO WINNER TAKE ALL. MR. SPEAKER, IF SENATOR McCOY WOULD LIKE ANY OF MY TIME, HE MAY HAVE IT. [LB10]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR McCOY, YOU'RE YIELDED 2:12. [LB10]

SENATOR McCOY: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND THANK YOU, SENATOR HILKEMANN. PROBABLY BE MY LAST TIME TO RISE HERE IN THE NEXT FEW MINUTES BEFORE WE MOVE TO A CLOTURE MOTION. AND WHEN WE DO, I, TOO, WOULD ASK FOR YOUR YES VOTE ON THE CLOTURE MOTION, A NO VOTE ON AM333, AND A YES VOTE ON THE UNDERLYING BILL, LB10. YOU KNOW, ONE OF THE FUN THINGS ABOUT, I THINK, ALL OF US BEING IN A VERY UNIQUE BODY LIKE THE LEGISLATURE AND LIKE THE UNICAMERAL IS THAT WE ARE DIFFERENT, AND WE CAN TAKE A LOT OF PRIDE IN THAT. I KNOW I CERTAINLY DO. ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY, YOU HAVE THE CHANCE TO RUN ACROSS SOME OF OUR ALMOST 8,000 FELLOW LEGISLATORS, AND THEY ALL ASK, WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE IN THE UNICAMERAL? AND I THINK ALL OF US, REGARDLESS OF OUR POLITICAL PERSUASION, TAKES A LOT OF PRIDE IN BEING PART OF THE NATION'S ONLY UNICAMERAL. THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA SPOKE TO PUT US HERE, TO CREATE THIS BODY, AND I'M GLAD THEY DID. PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA COULD OBVIOUSLY CHANGE THAT AT SOME POINT. [LB10]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB10]

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SENATOR McCOY: BUT THE UNIQUENESS OF BEING PART OF OUR UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE IS JUST THAT--IT'S UNIQUE. BUT IT DOESN'T AFFECT NATIONAL POLICY. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS AND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CYCLES DO AFFECT NATIONAL POLICY. AND THAT'S WHERE I THINK BEING AN ABERRATION, BEING A UNIQUE OUTLIER IS ONE THAT WE JUST DON'T WANT TO BE, DOESN'T MAKE SENSE FOR US, IN MY MIND. THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT THIS LEGISLATION. THAT'S WHY I HOPE YOU'LL JOIN ME IN SUPPORTING IT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HILKEMANN AND SENATOR McCOY. SENATOR HANSEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB10]

SENATOR HANSEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THERE'S BEEN A COUPLE THINGS SAID RECENTLY THAT I JUST WANTED TO ADDRESS. YOU KNOW, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ALL OF THE OFFICES WE ELECT TO WINNER TAKE ALL. MIGHT I REMIND EVERYONE THAT IF WE SWITCH TO A WINNER TAKE ALL OFFICE FOR ELECTORAL COLLEGE, WE ARE NOT SENDING ONE GOVERNOR, ONE STATE LEGISLATURE. WE'RE SENDING FIVE ELECTORAL VOTES CAST FROM FIVE ELECTORS. THAT MAY NOT SEEM LIKE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE TO SOME, BUT I WOULD HAVE TO SAY IT'S A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE TO ME AND ONE I WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO SIT UPON. AND, AGAIN, WE KEEP RISING AND RISING AND TALKING ABOUT THE COMPARISON OF NEBRASKA TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. COLLEAGUES, IT'S OUR JOB AS THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE TO WATCH OUT FOR THE CITIZENS AND INTEREST OF NEBRASKANS. IF WE THINK THAT A DISTRICT METHOD OF ELECTORS IS THE BEST METHOD FOR REPRESENTING NEBRASKA, REPRESENTING NEBRASKA IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, MAKING SURE THAT NEBRASKANS HAVE THEIR VOICE HEARD AND GET ATTENTION FROM POLITICAL CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL OPPORTUNITIES, I THINK THAT'S A VERY FAIR POSITION TO TAKE, AND THAT'S A POSITION I TAKE AS WELL. WITH THAT, MR. PRESIDENT, I WOULD YIELD MY TIME TO SENATOR COOK, SHOULD SHE HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY IN CLOSING. [LB10]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR COOK, YOU HAVE 3:33. [LB10]

SENATOR COOK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND THANK YOU, SENATOR HANSEN. IN CLOSING, I ASK FOR YOUR ADOPTION OF AM333 AND YOUR OPPOSITION TO LB10. LOOKING AT THE CLOCK, I THINK WHAT I WILL USE THIS TIME TO DO IS TO ASK YOU TO VOTE NO ON THE CLOTURE MOTION FOR ALL OF THE REASONS THAT MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES HAVE MENTIONED. IF I HAVE

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ONE EMERGING THEME SINCE I JOINED THE LEGISLATURE, NOW EIGHT YEARS AGO, AND EVEN STARTING CAMPAIGNING, EVEN IDENTIFYING A REASON TO CAMPAIGN AND RUN FOR THIS OFFICE, IT IS TO OFFER A LIVING EXAMPLE OF THE FACT THAT NOT EVERYBODY IN NEBRASKA IS...LOOKS THE SAME. I GREW UP IN THIS STATE. I GREW UP IN A PART OF THE STATE WHERE EVERYBODY KIND OF LOOKS LIKE ME AND THEN LOOKS DIFFERENT. THERE'S A LOT OF DIVERSITY, ALTHOUGH I'M STARTING TO NOT ENJOY THAT WORD AS MUCH AS I USED TO WHEN IT FIRST CAME ON THE SCENE. SO THIS BILL PASSING IS A REPRESENTATION OF US GOING BACKWARDS. WE'VE HAD A COUPLE OF OTHER EXAMPLES IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS. THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF THIS STATE, THE ATTITUDES OF THIS STATE ARE VERY, VERY UNIQUE AND DIFFERENT. OUR UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE IS UNIQUE. SO WHY WE NEED TO DO THIS AT THIS TIME, NOT CERTAIN, WHICH IS WHY I BROUGHT THIS AMENDMENT ALONG WITH OPPOSITION LAST YEAR AND OPPOSITION BEFORE THAT. SO I WANT TO REMIND EVERYBODY THAT YOU CAN, KIND OF WHAT SACHEL PAIGE USED TO SAY, YOU CAN RUN BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE. THE DEMOGRAPHICS ARE SHIFTING. YOU MAY THINK YOU WANT THIS RIGHT NOW, BUT YOU MAY LOOK UP AND DETERMINE THAT YOU DON'T WANT THIS INTO YOUR STATUTE. SO, WITH THAT, I WOULD YIELD THE BALANCE OF MY TIME, ASKING ONE MORE TIME FOR A NO ON CLOTURE MOTION. YIELD THE BALANCE OF MY TIME. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR LISTENING. NEBRASKA IS A WIDE-OPEN SPACE THAT INCLUDES PEOPLE THAT LOOK LIKE ME AND THINK LIKE ME AND VOTE AND PAY TAXES. I WILL YIELD THE BALANCE OF MY TIME TO THE CHAIR. THANK YOU. [LB10]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HANSEN. THANK YOU, SENATOR COOK. MR. CLERK, DO YOU HAVE A MOTION ON THE DESK? [LB10]

CLERK: I DO, MR. PRESIDENT. SENATOR McCOY WOULD MOVE TO INVOKE CLOTURE PURSUANT TO RULE 7, SECTION 10. [LB10]

SPEAKER HADLEY: IT IS THE RULING OF THE CHAIR THERE HAS BEEN FULL AND FAIR DEBATE ACCORDED TO LB10. SENATOR McCOY, FOR WHAT PURPOSE DO YOU RISE? [LB10]

SENATOR McCOY: MR. PRESIDENT, IF I MAY, I KNOW TECHNICALLY WE'RE UNDER CALL, BEING ON FINAL READING. IF I COULD JUST ASK FOR MEMBERS JUST TO DO A CHECK-IN VOTE AND THEN I'D LIKE A ROLL CALL VOTE IN REVERSE ORDER, IF I MAY, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB10]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

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SPEAKER HADLEY: THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST FOR YOU TO CHECK IN, WHICH MEANS HIT YOUR GREEN LIGHT AT THIS POINT IN TIME. SENATOR KINTNER, WOULD YOU CHECK IN, AND SENATOR GROENE? THE MEMBERS HAVE CHECKED IN. THERE'S BEEN...THE FIRST VOTE IS A MOTION TO INVOKE CLOTURE. BEEN A REQUEST FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE IN REVERSE ORDER. MR. CLERK. [LB10]

CLERK: (ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 1591.) 32 AYES, 17 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE MOTION TO INVOKE CLOTURE. [LB10]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE MOTION TO INVOKE CLOTURE FAILS. I RAISE THE CALL. MR. CLERK FOR ITEMS. [LB10]

CLERK: I DO HAVE ITEMS, MR. PRESIDENT. ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW REPORTS LR547 AS CORRECTLY ENROLLED. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1591-1592.) [LR547]

AND, MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE A PRIORITY MOTION. SENATOR KOLTERMAN WOULD MOVE TO ADJOURN THE BODY UNTIL WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 13, AT 9:00 A.M.

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. WE ARE ADJOURNED.