

March 11, 1974

the ballot. Now, wait a minute, wait a minute, now, I'm going to answer your question and I think I'm right. This is partisan. It doesn't say Republican or Democrat. Under your original bill all political parties if they want to have a Primary would...would...are allowed to file candidates. It's a non...the Independents that can't. If we had a Conservative party in the State of Nebraska or a Liberal party and they wanted to be on the Primary ballot, they ought to allowed to be on the Primary ballot.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Yes, now as I.....

SENATOR SYAS: Under your original bill. We can't restrict political party participation to Democrats and Republicans.

PRESIDENT: Stand by, Senator Syas.

SENATOR WHITNEY: I have another question, Senator Syas. As I understand it, we would not allow the people to vote as to whether or not they'd have a partisan Legislature.

SENATOR SYAS: Not under my amendment they would not be voting indirectly. They'd be merely saying that the Legislature shall provide the way we run. We could retain it, I'm being absolutely out in the open about this. We could retain it as it is.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Now, as I read your amendment, as I read your amendment, Senator Syas, it says constitutional amendment to permit the election of the members of the Legislature in such manner as determined by the Legislature.

SENATOR SYAS: Right.

SENATOR WHITNEY: In other words, this Legislature if it wanted to could put ten political parties on the ballot, isn't that correct?

SENATOR SYAS: I...I think....I think the answer would be yes, but you're stretching it the wrong way. You see, under the old...under the original bill you could do that. You'd have to do it. You'd have to do it under the original bill. Forget about my amendment for a minute. You'd have to do it under the original bill. I don't see how you could stop the Conservative party in Nebraska and there is in New York, you know, and the Liberal party and there is in New York, you know, I don't see how you could stop them from filing candidates if there was such authority organized in the State of Nebraska from being filed and holding a Primary under the original wording of the bill. Forget about my amendment. There could be ten or fifteen on the original bill and I think even Senator Stromer will verify that one.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Well, there could be under the original bill, however, it would be more difficult than to get a Legislature to do this.

SENATOR SYAS: Pardon?

SENATOR WHITNEY: It would be more difficult under the original bill than it would be for the Legislature to do this.

SENATOR SYAS: How would it be more difficult?

SENATOR WHITNEY: As I recall, you have to have a petition, so many voters sign the petition in order to have a third