

March 13, 1974

or on the state level. But I was very much amazed when I came to Lincoln and found out that the Republican party and the Democratic party are not active at this level. They will not be active at this level as long as we ignore them and say they don't count, that they don't have any good, that they can't do anything. Should we have a partisan Legislature? The 49 people in this room would be deeply involved in the political action of the parties or the Independents to where the action is. That action could be transferred to the political parties. I oppose the kill motion.

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: Just a question. You know Senator Mahoney asked me some questions and then I felt he was asking me questions and I didn't get a chance to answer. And that was...what he was referring to was and he asked me that I don't believe in allowing the people to vote. And that isn't true. But I think a legislative body is in a position where we should support or sort out what the people vote on. Now, if that is not our duty to Senator Mahoney in answering to his questions, then we should put up all bills that come into us as constitutional amendments. We should put them on the ballot. You'd need no legislative discussion. You'd need no committees. I think my job is to ferret out those bills I think that are worthwhile to allow the people to vote on. He brought up Millard and if it is true that Senator Proud had a bill in here to allow Millard to vote. And I voted against it. But you know it's so odd, so did he. Another little thing of some of these people are saying allow the people to vote. And yet when Senator Stahmer about a week ago wanted the people to vote on a local issue, the Legislature turns them down and that's not criticism of me for the Legislature. I'm saying it's our job to sort out whether, what people vote on and what they do not. I just wanted to make that clear.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nore and then Frank Lewis and then Stahmer and then Barnett. The motion is to indefinitely postpone LB649.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President and fellow members, I rise to support the kill motion. Now, it's been said at the United States Congress and United States Senate are the most deliberative body in the world. I don't believe that. I think this one is because we are non-partisan and we don't dare leave here. Now if you're under partisan system, you wouldn't have very many people sitting in these chairs today. They'd only come when they vote and if you want to go to some states, just go and look. You wouldn't have the tendency to be very poor and I think we probably have the highest attendance by far of any legislative body in the... I might say...in the whole country. So this is where there is more action here than any deliberative body in the world as far as I'm concerned. And it's because we represent our people. We're out here naked. That is politically. We represent our people. We have to depend on ourselves. We don't have some party hack to get some, some signs from to tell how to vote. It would be very easy to sit here with a partisan system. You wouldn't have to do anything. Just follow the party leader. As it is now, we work hard because we have to. Because we represent our people in a non-partisan way.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis, then Stahmer, then Barnett.