

current 100 foot restriction on electioneering to 200 feet, to allow people free ingress and egress from the polls without being confronted by a number of people who are electioneering at that time. At the hearing we had a lot of opposition to the bill from the media of Nebraska who felt like it infringed upon their First Amendment rights to restrict them from conducting these election polls altogether. Putting them 200 feet from the polls, they said, would restrict their rights to conduct the interviews at all. They had indicated, in the State of Washington, this matter is currently in litigation. It is currently in front of, I believe, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. In the interest of keeping us from enacting legislation that would probably bring us into litigation in federal court, I agreed with them to, in essence, cave in on this argument of restricting exit polls altogether. What this amendment before you does then is it caves in on that argument of totally restricting exit polls. However, it preserves the second and the third intent of my bill, that is it says to them they cannot interfere directly with the voting process. They do have to get away 20 feet from the entrance of the building, or if they are in a large building like this where they are inside the building, 100 feet from the voting booth. So we are talking about the amendment right now. I know I've talked a little bit about the bill itself, but we are talking about the amendment. What the amendment does is it eliminates the opposition the media of Nebraska had to this bill as it was introduced. So I ask you to adopt this amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lundy.

SENATOR LUNDY: Mr. President, I wonder if Senator Withem would yield to a question?

SENATOR WITHEM: I certainly would, Senator Lundy.

SENATOR LUNDY: I wonder, Senator, if this is not reducing then...is this not reducing the number of feet that people will have to stay away from a polling place from 100 feet to 20 feet? Is that what it ends up in this bill?

SENATOR WITHEM: No, Senator Lundy, it does not. Thank you for the clarifying question, though. That gives me a chance to answer that concern, something I didn't say in the original introduction of this. Currently exit pollsters,