

This problem was brought to me by the Election Commissioner of Douglas County who had some problems during the election because people were being asked who they had voted for inside the buildings, they were causing difficulty with the election judges and the election officials, with the conduction of the election. It does not, at this point, do, as the Washington State law did, move them clear out of the vicinity to the point where they will not have reasonable access to the voters to ask the questions. That is the larger philosophical question we spent a lot of time in committee discussing, and that is, are exit polls to project elections good, bad or indifferent? Basically the amendment that we just adopted takes that issue out of consideration, not because I think it's not a valid point to be considered, but because if we'd pass that form it would put the State of Nebraska into federal court. I'm just not interested in adding those sorts of expenses. So what it does is it increase...it does put restrictions on the media that they must be 20 feet from the entrance of any polling place, or if they are inside the building, 100 feet. It also, I want you to be very much aware of this, it also adds, from the current language we have a 100 foot restriction on electioneering. The intent of that is to allow voters to go to the polls on election day free from being harangued and harassed by more electioneering, which they have been putting up with for the previous six months. What this bill does is that increases that distance to 200 feet in an attempt to further discourage this practice. With that I'd ask you to advance LB 114.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question of Mr. Withem.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, would you respond, please?

SENATOR WITHEM: I certainly will.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Senator Withem, right now presently the practice is to put up a flag at the polls which are 100 feet from the entrance to the poll. Is that correct?

SENATOR WITHEM: I believe...Senator Pirsch, I am not sure. I believe it is 100 feet from the entrance, however, it could be measured from the desk where you check in. I could