

SENATOR WESELY: But in the '60s we changed that and allowed those people to vote. In the old days, in the 1800s the U.S. Senate was not elected directly by the people. They were elected by the State Legislature. Then we allowed the public to vote, but then again the recommendations were only that to the Legislature and again the Legislature decided. Later on the Legislature was bound by that popular vote and eventually they just did away the Legislature being involved at all. I'm citing all these examples of change in our election system to say that, yes, I know a lot of opposition exists to this bill. I know one man, one vote is one principle that some of you don't want to apply in this case, but I can tell you this, it is a principle that has upheld our nation all these years. It is a principle that we should adopt and continue in this state with NRD elections. I know there will be opposition to this change. I doubt this bill has much of a chance, but it has to eventually be adopted to reflect the basic principle that we cannot lose sight of as we move forward in our history and I think it's important that we bring this bill back to life and hopefully advance and pass it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Sieck and then Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, same old story. We've been fighting this every year, then I guess we'll continue fighting it as long as the League of Women Voters want this particular bill to come up. They will find someone to carry it. I noticed that my opponent was one of the people that were opposed to this bill and I also know that she is a member of the League of Women Voters. This was tested in court in 1975 and it is sound and I don't see why we need to change it. Some of the arguments that you have here saying that you don't have participation in the election process, that the people won't run, how about the city council in Lincoln here right now? How about some of the other races in our lower forms of government? How about the county commissioners? We're finding a lot of these there is only one person that runs. There is disinterest in running for offices because of the impact that the public gives to you and the fact of the hassle that you have to take and this is understandable. But I want you to know that in the given area that they want to change we have very dedicated people serving on those boards and I mean dedicated and you have good relationship between the urban and rural area and I, just for the life me, cannot