

the number of good candidates that are running in both the Democratic and Republican Party and there does create a situation where maybe not the best candidate wins, maybe we should look at it the following year, but up to this time we haven't seen any need for a runoff election and I urge the body to reject the motion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, I'm the third member of the Government Committee to stand in opposition to bringing this bill to the floor, notwithstanding action of the committee. My rationale is somewhat different from that of Senators Abboud and Landis. I would submit that LB 178, as introduced, really didn't have a public hearing. The committee really didn't consider LB 178 as introduced. We really haven't had the opportunity to consider that bill. And you say, why is that? You look in your bill books and there was, yes, a public hearing, there was a speaker. My memory of the public hearing is a little different from that that has been presented here this morning. As I recall, we had the bill brought to us as we sat down to hear the bill on whether or not we should have runoff primaries, the introducer of the bill came forward and said, hey, I've got a better idea today, a better idea. And if you look in your bill books, you'll see under explanation of amendments, if any, an explanation of the committee amendment which was considered and that was a novel approach and one that I really found fascinating and really kind of sorry we didn't wrestle with that issue and spend a little more time with it, a concept where, when the people go to vote in a multicandidate field in the primary, that they are not limited to one vote, they can vote for one candidate, two candidates, three candidates, preference voting it was called. And that was the concept that I recall Mr. Sittig was supporting as he came to the hearing, that what we do then, is we let people vote for more than one candidate in a primary and total up the votes at the end of the election and the person that gets the most votes wins the election. We amended the bill at the request of the introducer. We amended the bill to do that. We discussed it. We thought about it. We mulled it around. When we came back this winter into session, we looked at the bills that were being held in committee and we said, guys, you know, we're not really ready to advance this radical a change out to the floor yet. We're in the middle of primary