

people of the State of Nebraska would be the beneficiaries so that you do not have a 20 or 25 percent of the vote deciding who that particular party's candidate shall be. So I strongly urge you to bring this bill out of committee, put it out on the floor, let's talk about it. I'm not afraid to consider it for this year. What I am looking at is the people of the State of Nebraska, not particularly the candidates that have already filed or the fund raising that they have already done. We're not really going to be changing the rules. It's still going to be an election. There is still going to be a vote. The people are still going to make the ultimate decision and I think that we ought to give this idea some real discussion. I think the people will benefit. I support the motion by Senator DeCamp. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp, you may close.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I would like to address all the questions raised starting with Senator Withem's. Senator Withem, I do, indeed, support the amendment. I believe that's the way to go and overcomes the hurdle of even having to have the runoff primary. It's the latest and most sophisticated process developed by political scientists and, in fact, tested for getting a true reflection. However, I trust you are familiar with the rules of the Legislature that say, the bill you bring from committee is brought to the floor in its original form. For that reason I explained what the bill was and the reason for it and said, when we get it up here, then we can deal with variable concepts, but you have to bring the bill unless you wish to change the rules, which I am perfectly willing to, you have to bring it in its original form to the floor and offer the amendments yourself. Now, let's deal with the issue itself. We always seem to take an attitude in here, well, when the problem develops and gets bad enough, then we'll go back and correct it. The next governor you elect is here for four or eight years and you may have the best candidates or the worst candidates in the world out there, but the fact is they will probably be selected by 3 or 4 or 5 percent of the registered voters of the state which is not the purpose of a primary and which is not the essence of government or representative government. Let me give you a little fact to think about. About 10 percent of the voters of this state are Independents. They are not allowed to vote in a primary, yet their numbers, because they are so small, they