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compliance, substantial compliance with the law. Now what does that mean? I think each of us has to decide in our own heart and mind what that means. To me there was substantial compliance with the law. You know, one who is not a legal person, I like to compare with other things that we do in everyday life, such as, I don't know if anybody has ever gotten arrested for driving 56 miles an hour in a 55 mile zone. Evidently, the enforcement people think that is substantial compliance. What is substantial compliance? In this case, admittedly, the ballots were not signed but they were initialed, and also to call your attention to the fact that when you don't have an absentee ballot, when you go to the polls, those ballots are initialed, rather than signed, under the law. So to me, you know, it is clear that substantial compliance was adhered to in this case. The other phrase I would use is only four words, no allegations of fraud. On either side, there has not been any allegations of fraud. What does that mean? To me that means that those 553 people that sent in their absentee ballots were eligible to vote, did vote in the manner that they saw fit, and that there is no allegation that they didn't do that. And to me, that is important, that those people did vote, they voted the way they wanted to, and that their vote should be counted. I would relinquish the rest of my time to Senator Hefner.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hefner, you have about four minutes.

SENATOR HEFNER: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Mr. President and members of the body, now I would like to mention briefly some of the materials the Exec Board reviewed in our process. Five of the most important documents we reviewed are the statements of five voters who vote absentee in Gage County in the 1990 general election, and I have their deposition right here in my file. Also, they are available to you. And if you have any questions, I'd be real happy to try and answer them for you, but the first one I want to mention is about a woman who is 73-years old and she is blind. She and a blind friend of hers got directions on how to vote absentee from a blind support group. She wanted to exercise her right and she did. The woman's daughter helped her fill out her absentee ballot. Now, colleagues, are we just going to toss that ballot out? Are we just going to toss it out and say we are not going to count that ballot because that election clerk made a small error? It was substantial compliance but it is an error. They initialed it instead of sign it but we are going to toss it out because of a technicality in the law. The Constitution says we should count