

feel this. They have consistently refused to approve petitions to either make the Legislature partisan or a two house body. Now you all know that there are rare occasions there are political issues that do come before this body and the overriding matter in this issue is politics alone. I will not attempt to name them but you know they have existed and they have been handled on political lines but every piece of legislation in this body does not need this type of judgment superimposed on it automatically. I do not want the leaders of either political party and frankly you would be talking about one or two or three people calling the shots in this Legislature through local offices, committees, districts, or what have you. I have a deep and somewhat sentimental feeling about my district which I represent here in the Legislature, about the state in which I live and about the Legislature in which I participate. I honestly and sincerely feel that we cannot, at this time, have a partisan Legislature for Nebraska. We don't need it. We can't afford it. It's not suited for the situation. It is not in the best interest of the people and therefore, Mr. President, I oppose the passage of LB 9.

SPEAKER: The chair next recognizes Senator Kelly. then Senator Anderson.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, in the campaign in the 35th district, this question was part of the campaign. The position that I had and still have is that I can serve, in my opinion, effectively in a partisan or a nonpartisan legislature. I believe that this important question should be both put to the vote of the people by the Constitutional amendment. I therefore would support LB 9. Testimony that come before the committee in this issue is that so often in the election campaigns for state senator the issue is on a district bases. That statewide issues really do not come into the election of this body. It was believed by this testifier that partisan election of the Senators would give the state-

(End of Belt #7)

(Start Belt #8)

wide connotation to the election of the members of this body instead of on a local issue basis as it so often is now. I do urge that we advance LB 9 so the people can answer and tell us what they want. Thank you.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Anderson.

SENATOR ANDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it's my own sincere belief that Nebraska's continuation of the nonpartisan Legislature has had the effect of saying that we have turned our backs on one of the fundamental aspects of real genius in the American political system and this, of course, is the bipartisan policy political system. Many people have labeled the, have labeled partisan politics as a curse but I think, rather, that we should regard partisan politics as something good and healthy, something positive. Certainly, it is not a perfect system but I think that it does do a much better job of solving many of the political problems that we face. I think that, it probably is the best vehicle we have for resolving key issues. I think that it probably is the best way we have of freeing the Legislator from the pressures of special interest groups. I think it is probably the best way of making people accountable to the voters and I think really the real genius of the partisan system is the fact that it guarantees a system of responsible opposition. I hope that we as a Legislature will accept the genius of the American past and that we will advance LB 9. Thank you.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Stromer, then Senator Skarda, then Senator Chambers.