

Johnson. It is found on page 1014 of the Journal. (Read.) Mr. President, that resolution is found on page 1014 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lowell Johnson. May we have order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel.) Senator Johnson.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this day, February 22, 1984, marks the 50th anniversary of the successful beginning of the grassroots campaign to create our Nebraska Unicameral Legislature. The idea for the Unicameral legislative system did not originate in Nebraska but Nebraska continues to be the only one of the 50 states to use the single-chamber method of government. Before the successful campaign in 1934, several attempts to establish a one-house body had ended in failure. In 1913, John C. Norton of Osceola, sponsored a resolution to create the Unicameral system. This attempt failed, but Norton again pushed for this goal in 1917 when he presented a resolution for the constitutional convention to revise Nebraska's supreme law and provide for the one-house method of government. The convention of 1919-1920, however, failed to bring about an agreeable proposal to do this. Again in 1925 and 1933 Senator J.D. Lee of Boyd County and Senator John G. Boelts of Merrick County, made similar proposals which failed. It was obvious that the Legislature would be reluctant to do away with a part of itself. Then United States Senator George Norris picked up the campaign for the Unicameral Legislature in 1934. He asked Colonel John G. Maher, a retired World War I army officer and a Lincoln insurance company executive to organize a kickoff for launching the Unicameral campaign. This public conference was convened in the auditorium of Lincoln's Cornhusker Hotel on George Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1934, with the featured speaker for the evening's banquet, of course, Senator Norris. The campaign meeting brought together approximately 800 participants from all over the State of Nebraska. This conference set into motion an extensive campaign to get signatures on a petition to bring the Unicameral idea before the people. Serving as President of the campaign was Lincoln newspaper publisher George Kline. Other Nebraska personalities involved with the campaign