

SPEAKER BAACK: We have a call of the question. Do I see five hands? I do. We will vote now on ceasing debate. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BAACK: Debate has ceased. Senator Wehrbein, would you like to close on your motion to bracket? Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, I'll close briefly. I just want to read from a couple articles. The district plan must be considered to be more than a remedy for supposed defects of the electoral college system. It is really a protest against the sort of presidency that has developed during the twentieth century. Advocates of the plan seek to overturn policies they oppose and balances of power unfavorable to them by recasting the popular base of the presidential office. This is an entirely legitimate way to seek the effect change in the American system but it should be understood that to support the district plan is to endorse a profound political reversal. And another one is, the president, together with the vice president, is the only public official in the United States who is elected by a nationwide vote. He presides over one of the largest and most diverse countries in the world; among nations of its size in both population area is the only one whose people actually elect such a leader. The complexities under the system under which the president governs require that he always give consideration to the state and local aspects of major policy decisions. The existence of the federal system in the locally oriented Congress assures that he will. The president needs to have the fundamental freedom to act as a national leader. Under the district plan, he would be more oriented toward local and state concerns than he is under the existing system. Congress and the state and local interest it represents would become preeminent and interests that are essentially national would suffer a correspondingly decline. That's just part of it. I know it's wordy. I simply ask you to think seriously of where this could lead. Admittedly, maybe not all states will, but if Maine has, Nebraska wants to be in the forefront, other states will certainly be considering this. I don't know, it don't say that it's a national movement, but I do think we are making a serious long-term policy change here that we don't all recognize. If a study would show that it is beneficial and everyone in Nebraska understands that it is, so