

that appeared from across Nebraska in support of the bill. There's been a tremendous amount of public interest. I have had numerous calls and letters asking me when we were going to discuss the bill on the floor starting with the time it came out of committee last year. And it was for that reason as well as the fact I thought it was an issue that needed to be discussed that I did not agree to pull the amendment when we had the discussion the other evening. I would like to briefly state that this is not an anti lobbyist bill, quite the contrary. I have had excellent help from lobbyists in the time that I have been here in the Legislature. When a problem comes up that I don't understand or that I don't have enough information on or that I need help in getting information on, I have turned to the lobby numerous times, most recently yesterday, and I found excellent help and I appreciate that. I commend that and it's not, this bill is not about doing something about lobbying or reducing lobbying or throwing darts at the lobby, it's quite the contrary. I respect the job they do and I've gotten a lot of help from it. I did want the body to consider the issue. Over half of the states have passed some sort of restriction on leaving their Legislature or their House or their Senate and coming right back in as a lobbyist. Congress has dealt and is dealing with the issue and it's not an unreasonable proposal. It's simply a short two-year ban and I think that it has a lot of merit or good policy reasons for considering it in terms of helping to try to increase the trust of the public in this body. The short inconvenience or possible financial sacrifice of the few people that would be affected would be small in comparison to the...what would be gained by this body by putting in a restriction like this. It would help us send the message that we consider this to be important, the way we do business and not just the business we do is important. It's a pretty modest proposal. It's consistent with the fact that we are intended to be and George Norris intended us to be a citizens Legislature, not a professional body. We don't come in here with the idea that we're requiring a profession for life or anything like that or that it's a training ground to become a professional. We come in here as a citizen and I think generally we leave as citizens and it is consistent with that. I realize that with the time constraints that we have we will not be able to discuss this in detail. The body would not be comfortable approving it without considerable discussion. I am disappointed but I recognize the system and it's the way it has to work today. I do appreciate having a little opportunity to speak about it. The debate the other evening centered an awful lot about we