

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 17, 1999 LR 14

of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: LR 14CA. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LR 14CA was introduced by Senator Schrock and others. It's a proposed constitutional amendment to change the method of nominating and electing the Lieutenant Governor. The bill was read for the first time on January 12th, referred to the Government Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments attached.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM PRESIDING

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Schrock, you're recognized to introduce LR 14CA.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, Mr. President, members of the legislative body, LR 14CA does away with the requirement of nominating our Lieutenant Governor in the primary election. Some of the reasons why I think this would be a good idea is because at the present time, where the Lieutenant Governor is nominated in the primary and then they run as a team in the general in the fall, depending upon who is successful there, it kind of places us in an awkward position, because the Lieutenant Governor may be somebody who is congenial with the Governor nominee or may not be. But I listened last spring when we adjourned during the short session, I spent a number of hours on a tractor and listened to a lot of radio advertisements on the farm radio station that I listen to frequently, and I heard a lot of claims about what a Lieutenant Governor was going to do. They were going to cut taxes and they were going to make sure that schools were properly funded. I just kept shaking my head. And, really, the Lieutenant Governor is a backup and I would think that whoever is nominated for Governor should have the chance to choose their own Lieutenant Governor, and that's what this constitutional amendment does. It allows the Governor nominee to select who they want as a running mate. Now that has a lot of...that has a lot of advantages. It can give us some geographic diversity and, if you remember right, five years ago on the Republican side both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor were from Omaha. So it gives us a chance to get some geographic diversity. It even gives us a chance to have some gender