

May 5, 1981

LB 209

go to the Chairman and ask to either adopt the committee amendments and it was at my request, Senator Kahle, and members, that those amendments be made to strike the independent voter section because in the Supreme Court case recently over the Wisconsin issue of the ballot, the Supreme Court struck down the Wisconsin open presidential primary and crossover by nonparty members by a vote of 6 to 3 so why leave that in a piece of legislation when you know you are flying in the face of the federal Constitution and Supreme Court. Secondly, as Senator Kahle said, we struck the preferential primary for the present which I think is appropriate and now we have strictly a bill which would place before you, or we would have had, a primary election which would take place in September and, obviously, both parties have done their work well and some county clerks have done well as well and somebody can print that in the newspaper because the county clerks have sent you some information which is not correct. They can perform their responsibilities and do it as well as any other state where they have primaries and I want you to know that today there are over 20 states that have their primaries in September and another seven that have them in August, and for your historical reference and background, I would provide you this information. Back in 1907, the Legislature saw fit to establish a primary election and it was the first Tuesday in September but I suppose that was ahead of the State Fair, I am not quite sure because I don't go back that far, but we all know that that was an agrarian society and then we have had a number of different dates over the years and one was in August and once it was in July and once in April and once in June, and then for some reason in 1955, the Legislature moved it to May. I have a feeling they did that because they wanted it to be bellwether for presidential races. Now if we really want to be a bellwether for presidential races, then we ought to beat New Hampshire. We ought to put our date ahead of New Hampshire so all those candidates will parade around here in the winter snows and will help our economy. Now I will remind you the last time we had a major impact by the Kennedy's and others in this state, they left the state paying 25¢ on the \$1 for the debt they incurred. Now if that is good economy, I submit to you that you have got a different point of view on economies. I would also remind you this last election, even though Nebraska was strong Reagan, I didn't see the presidential candidates tromping across this great state, none at all, because with the advent of the media and television, there is probably not that much need for them to come here particularly when they know the state has dedicated itself to one candidate or the other. Now if you are worried about the two political parties and how this is going to hamper them, I suggest all

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