

May 5, 1981

LB 209

stitutional amendment. We will give the people a chance to vote on it. I assure you they are going to vote to move it to September. They talk about our great voting record in Nebraska, the Secretary of State did in the hearing. All the states around us who have their primaries in September beat us every step of the way in percentages in terms of people who actually participated in the voting privilege. I handed out to you in that form, it shows you and I will not repeat it, but New Hampshire and Minnesota, all those people beat Nebraska in terms of people going to polls. Not only that, but we talk about the high cost of elections. Why don't you put it in a more compact form so when you get ready to run you really have only one election. If you get beat in the primary you are done but in a process you know you are going to win because you are confident and your ego is that strong and so you gear up for that election plus one which will follow ten weeks later in November. There you have it. Your committee is intact. They are still energetic and they are ready to go. The way it is now you gear up sometime the first of the year and you go through the process. So then your committee is in limbo until you decide again to gear up and go sometime whenever that automatic target date is you are going to start up again and you have got the costs which there again face you again and again. And I submit to you, if you are concerned about the people out here who watch this body in their exercise of judicial prudence that you would take in consideration the fact that people may want this piece of legislation for one time. And I submit to you, I would wish the World Herald would run a poll on whether or not we should have a primary in September or if we should continue to carry on the activity in May. I have heard the stories about well the State Fair is there. Well, good. Isn't that something? We have got the State Fair. For goodness sakes, we are going to impede the State Fair? Not at all, not at all. Henry Brandt would not be bothered by it one iota and people would not be worried about it too much. Not only that, one time our schools started at a certain time and others a certain time because you had to plant corn or get the ground ready because you only had three mules and some human power and so as a result the kids went to school when it was convenient and they farmed when they needed them. Now we also start our schools before Labor Day. Once upon a time our schools did not start until...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR KOCH: ...after the State Fair but no longer do we make that observation, not in disrespect to the great fair but the fact that people still have the opportunity to go on their own. So I would submit to you that this primary election