

is an assault on the voters' sensibilities to have campaigns for the state Legislature run from March all the way through to September. I think lengthy campaigns with a long dormant period over the summer does not do anybody any good but in particular, in addition to all the reasons that are self-evident to all of us about why such lengthy campaigns are not good, and I might add that in Omaha right now we are undergoing a campaign for the mayor's race where there is only one month between the primary and the general and it is working very well, but there is one particular reason that such an early primary and such a late general bothers me with a respect to the Legislature and that is that it tends to put reelection politics into the Legislature during the sixty day session every other year because right now when we are undergoing our sixty day session in the Legislature, we are in the midst... (interruption.)

SENATOR CLARK: (Gavel.) Could we have a little quiet in here, please?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: We are in the midst of a primary election and it means that half of our members are or the seats of half of our members are up for election and occasionally reelection politics is going to work its way into speeches on the floor, occasionally maybe even the votes that are cast on the floor. And just as alcohol and gasoline do not mix as we have heard for many, many decades, I don't think reelection politics and good law making mixes and I think the best way to insulate the Legislature from reelection politics of course is impossible to do it 100% but by moving the primary back to September would certainly be a step in the right direction, so as a means of cleaning up this bill, ladies and gentlemen, and enabling it to deal only with a September primary election, I would ask first of all that you adopt this amendment to strike Section 17 of the bill which would follow the committee's recommendation and take out the open primary provision of the bill. So as I indicated before, we are not going to have the Lutherans telling the Methodists who their minister ought to be. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Chairman and members, I oppose the Hoagland amendment. As I indicated earlier I think that it is important. Senator Koch mentioned that the voters or the people of the State of Nebraska would probably support through a constitutional amendment a change in the primary time. I would suggest to you that the voters of this state, by and large, would support an open primary. It is the