

May 5, 1981

LB 209

political parties that do not want open primaries. It is not the people. I think most people in this state vote for the individual. They do not vote for the individual because of the particular party that they belong to and it is my conviction that if an individual is registered as an independent they should have a right to ask for and receive whatever ballot they so desire. Of course, philosophically I would much rather that the entire primary would be open but I understand the power of the political parties in this state so I think Senator Hoagland is wrong in his assessment of making this a better bill by taking out Section 17. I think Section 17 is one of the most important parts of this bill. I think it is a step in the right direction and from my perspective I believe the people of the State of Nebraska feel it is a step in the right direction but I am referring to people that are not perhaps in political realm as this body is. I think the average citizen, I am referring to the average citizen that does not feel very strongly toward either political party but instead, votes for the individual that they think and feel in their own heart would do the most good. In response to Senator Hoagland's last remark about the Lutherans and the Methodists, it seems to me that we are all in this together and whoever is the person that is elected in the end, no matter what political persuasion they might belong to, then is, in fact, the representative that is representing us. So I do not see that as a valid argument whether it be in the primary or in the general election. If anybody wants to skip party lines, I think that should be the individual's prerogative. So I strongly object to the Hoagland amendment in removing Section 17 from LB 209.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Haberman, on the Hoagland amendment.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I call the question.

SENATOR CLARK: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed no.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted on ceasing debate? Record the vote.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SENATOR CLARK: Debate is ceased. Senator Hoagland, do you want to close on your amendment?