

May 5, 1981

LB 209

Senator Koch is offering by his bill is an opportunity to inject some positive good into the campaign structure of at least this state. So Senator Koch, as I supported the bill in committee, I support it here and I think there are times when people in legislative bodies will do things a certain way just because they have been done that way for a long time. Change is needed. This bill offers a change. I haven't heard a rational argument against it, and by rational, I would take to mean an argument which shows that greater harm than good would result from the bill being passed. If you put all of the arguments against the bill on one side, they would fill a thimble and leave room for a finger. If you put all of the arguments in favor of the bill on the other side, they probably would fill this Chamber, but those of us who favor the bill don't want to talk the issue to death, so I want it crystal clear that I will support the bill now by voting against the kill motion and I will vote to advance it all the way across the board.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to speak very briefly in opposition to the kill motion for two reasons. I really don't think it does anybody in the State of Nebraska good to have legislative races and other statewide races dragged out over a nine or ten month period. I think they can be handled in four or five months quite adequately. Secondly, I don't think it makes any sense for this Legislature to endorse a system where every sixty day session we have half of the seats of this body up for reelection. I think it inevitably gives much more of a campaign tone to the proceedings before this body than there should be. I think it inevitably calls on people to stand up and make political speeches from time to time and may even affect votes. So I think in order to preserve the integrity of our lawmaking procedure here, we really do much better to have the primary in September, months after we have adjourned our semiannual or our biannual sixty day session, and in that way as much as we can, try to get the politics of reelection out of the lawmaking procedures here because in my view the politics of reelection and lawmaking just don't mix very well. So I would urge you to oppose the kill motion. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see