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my campaign to explain how the write-in worked and to explain, write the name in full, X the box, but I am sure there were ballots that were counted that someone could probably argue should not have been, but the law is not clear in that regard. So I am here and I received those 5,029 votes because of the intent, and that was the basis for mine. I believe the Secretary of State's interpretation of the law, when I asked him for an opinion as to whether or not those ballots if they were not correctly spelled or not correctly marked would be counted, and my view falls down on the majority of the voters and the intent that they had when they went to the polls. I was also struck yesterday when I read in the World-Herald Senator Baack's comment that said we need to send a very clear message to election officials. We have laws governing their act and we need to follow them. Senator Baack, I agree with you 110 percent, but the question I asked myself is, should we penalize the people of the 30th District, those 553 votes that would be thrown out, because we want to send a very clear message to the Gage County officials as well as other county officials? And secondly, and maybe more importantly to me, personally, is that should we take a seat away from a member of this body who received the majority of votes of both the votes cast and the absentee? Should we take that seat away so we can send a message to our county officials that you screwed up and you had better learn from this lesson? And my answer is, no, we should not. And because of that, I guess, I am going to vote against the majority report, and I would say, since we know the identity of the 553 absentee voters, should we not give them a valid ballot as opposed to a void ballot, if there is any resolution to this issue? I don't know if we can do that, but it would be nice to at least give them an opportunity to vote again since they didn't know; as has been pointed out several times, most of those folks probably, in fact, all of them probably did not realize that they had received an invalid ballot, and I think it is a shame that they would be void in this particular case. But I guess I want to send a message, I do, but I don't necessarily see that this is the path we take to send that message.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. We will now go to Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I won't take a lot of time because many of the things that I have wanted to say have been said. Many of the things that I have thought have