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vote will be preserved." And that minority report quotes the Nebraska Constitution. We have talked a lot about this legal technicality, this signing on the back of the ballot, a little busy-work that the election officials have to do. No, that signature is there for a reason. Senator Crosby handed out a ballot. I would like all of you, if you could, pick up that ballot, take a look at it, and look at the box in the bottom where it says judges' initials. And if we look at judges' initial on the absentee ballots, you will notice that that box is on the front of the ballot. The statute requires that it be signed on the back. Why? It is signed on the back so that the voter can then fold that ballot and put it in an envelope, an envelope that has that voter's name on it, an envelope that has that voter's address on it, an envelope that tells you specifically who the voter is and the ballot remain a secret. If we follow these election laws, that ballot is then taken from the envelope and placed into a ballot box once that signature on the back of the ballot is verified. It is placed in the election box so that nobody knows how that voter voted. What happened in Gage County is a travesty and there will be no fair result regardless of what happens today, because in Gage County in this election, they didn't sign the back. They opened it up. They looked for the judges' initials on that ballot. Oh, if you look for those judges' initials, then you see a lot more than that, and then they set it down next to the envelope with that voter's name. They say they didn't look. If they didn't, well, we will have to take them at their word at that, but I don't like to take somebody at their word on something as important as the secret vote of the voter. Those absentee voters ought to be more offended by the fact that Gage County officials were able to see who they voted for and attribute that vote to a single individual, and that, colleagues, is the travesty of justice that has gone on. If we follow the Constitution, as quoted in the minority report, we have no choice. We are bound to pass laws to provide for the secret ballot. We are then bound by that Constitution, by those statutes, to protect that secret ballot. I suggest that we have to do that. This has not been an easy issue for me, and I consider Senator Byars a friend. I consider him to be an outstanding senator. I think everybody else does, too. I think those members of the Executive Board, when we considered that, I think all of us had to step away from the personalities involved and vote on the law, vote on the case that was before us. That is what this body has to do. Senator Hefner this morning has discussed I believe five depositions where he talked about people who were given absentee ballots and