

February 19, 1991

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR LINDSAY: ...that's okay, we can't criticize you. I would yield the remainder of my time to Senator Chambers.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, one minute doesn't give me time to really get warmed up at all so I will use what remains of it to thank Senator Lindsay for trying to assist me in having the opportunity to say what's on my mind, but I will not attempt it at this time.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. We will now go to Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's important this morning for us to look at what is at issue and what is not at issue. What is not at issue is the secrecy of those other ballots, what's not at issue is those other 95 ballots. What's at issue is what was raised in the election contest that's in the Journal. Keep that in mind. Our job is to look at those 503 absentee ballots and to decide what we're going to do with them. I'm with Senator Lindsay, this case has caused me a considerable amount of trouble. It causes me troubles inside of my head because I sit and try to examine...I've spent a good deal of my adult life dealing with the law, making it work, trying to make it better, trying to deal with it, and cases like this are tough. But I'm here to tell you this morning that you can follow the law in the State of Nebraska and still vote against the majority report. Now why is that? Well, one is Senator Schmit touched upon it a little bit and let's look at that privilege. The privilege is to get the absentee ballot, I agree, the convenience to do so. I can't be at the ballot box because I'm old, because I'm in the service, because I am out of town trying to earn money for my family, a convenience, a convenience to go and get that absentee ballot, a privilege, if you will. We didn't have to let them do that. We could say, no, you're not going to get it, you're...unless you're at the ballot box, you're not going to get to vote. So we give them the convenience, the privilege to go get that ballot and to vote by absentee. But when that voter votes, in my mind, the right attaches. The right attaches that I have voted and I have just as much standing, just as much right as a person who showed up on election day and put that