

February 19, 1991

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay, thank you. I agree with Senator Johnson about what...the comment that Senator Baack made that we should send a message. And, as I look at the County Clerk of Gage County, and I don't know who the person is, but I think of the word inept, inefficient, slovenly and not capable. And I think if we have to draw out rules and regulations for the county clerks of Nebraska, we should do that. Now maybe...and I've heard the Secretary of State's name thrown into this. Whatever it is, we should do it. It's a job any 12th grade student could do with any kind of intelligence at all. I want you to know I have never discussed this issue with either person. I have not been invited or attended a meeting to discuss this issue and I will agree with George Coordsen, it is not a personality issue. I've heard the word "justice". I've heard the word "law", the word "privilege" of the absentee voter. I've read in the paper that...I think it was a Lincoln paper that certain people had more courage than the other, now I don't believe that. I think everyone probably has an ample amount of courage or they wouldn't be down here. I've heard constitutional law on both sides of the issue. In the 16th Legislative District, which I represent, there were 406 absentee ballots. I devoted seven months of my life to come down here just...and I know a lot of you other people did that. I would say in percentage I probably talked to more people in my district than anyone else. I would probably put that up there. Now I'm bragging a little but I talked to a lot of people. I think I was in Walthill, Nebraska 15 times, great community. I don't know about you people but I developed a special bond with my constituency. Four hundred and six absentee ballots. I want to ask the new senators and also the old senators, would you go to my 406 absentee ballot people that cast those, my constituencies...my constituents that cast those and say to them, there was no fraud in this election, the initials were verified, but your vote doesn't count because a county clerk didn't do their job? It's not law, it's not justice, it is what is right and what is right is that the 406 absentee ballots in the 16th Legislative District should count and also the absentee ballots in the Gage County election should count. I think we forget about why we're down here.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR ROBINSON: We're down here because people put us down here. Senator Ashford may have the rest of my time and I will