

February 20, 1991

hurried debate or hurried decision. I think that we spent a good deal of yesterday doing that. However, I have reviewed Senator Warner's substitute motion to the Hall idea and to the Hall concept and I believe that what it does is I'm much more comfortable with the idea of stating the substantial compliance reasons and leaving the statute intact. I'm afraid if we just make a statement that the Constitution overrules the statute, that you are in effect throwing the statute out the window and that is not the case. That certainly is not my intent. With all due respect to my good friend, Senator Baack, and I mean that sincerely, substantial compliance is the way that if this body has acted that you justify what you have done with keeping the statute in effect and you've made a factual determination that what occurred in Gage County complied with the statute and that the statute isn't thrown out by the Constitution. I think Senator Warner's motion speaks to that but what it also does that I like a lot is that it spends two paragraphs talking about the procedure on how this was accomplished. The fact that the people were given a hearing, the fact that they were represented by counsel, the fact that they were given depositions, the fact that they were allowed to write legal briefs. Hopefully in 30 years, when they have another election contest those people will look back and say, well, what in the world did they do with Byars-Korslund; you know, we don't remember. They will look in the Journal and if all they see is that the Constitution overruled the statute they are going to kind of throw up their hands and go, well, that doesn't help us a whole lot, so they reinvent the wheel. We all look for guideposts, things that will help us in the future. I think it's real important that you have those introductory paragraphs that say here's what we did. Here is the rights we allowed them and that gives you some basis to start again so you don't have all this wonder and all this quandary with it. With that, I support the Hall concept of let's adopt a front-up, a straight-up vote today on whether we're going to seat or not seat, but let's use some of the substitute language and if it fails, then we've got another issue to talk about and that's what we do if no one gets 25 votes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Now we'll go to Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I appreciate Senator Landis withdrawing his amendment and also appreciate Senator Withem withdrawing his motion. Like I said