

February 22, 1991 LB 20

questions. I would move for the return to Select File for the discussion of this amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. I'll now recognize Senator Wesely, followed by Senators Chambers and Withem. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President. Members, I raised a question about this bill on Final Reading yesterday, and I appreciated Senator Coordsen's willingness to hold the bill over to discuss the matter with Senator Chambers and myself and anybody else who was interested. I must, however, indicate that I probably differ in the solution. In fact, rather than opening up the bill further, my intent was to see it narrowed, that my concern was the passage of the bill, last year, which did not strike a chord with my memory rather quickly, that we did open it up. And now, anywhere in the State of Nebraska, whether it be Omaha, Lincoln, Elmwood, or any other city that you want to think of, or any county, if you want, you can run for city council, county board, mayor, school board, whatever you want, and you could, if you're elected, serve on any or all of those different positions. I'm troubled by that. I understand the desires by that legislation to serve the rural areas of the state where there is, I guess, a lack of interest in serving on some of the more local offices and the desire to allow for people to serve in a couple of capacities. But I have been given a briefing form that indicates that that concept was embodied in the original draft of LB 931. It only applied to the rural areas of the state, and not to Douglas or Lancaster County. But it was felt that it would not be constitutional to do that. So I'm not sure if that's the case or not. But it certainly does raise some questions. I know we have no lack of individuals who could run for and serve ably in different offices in the state, particularly in our more populated areas. But...so I start with the premise that that bill particularly didn't appeal to me, despite the fact that it turns out that I was among the 42 of us that voted for the bill. And now this bill that comes along to allow more people to file does follow along and implement it. But to allow the Legislature now, all of us, to further that sort of activity raises some real questions in my mind. I think, obviously, it does make it easier for the candidates, doesn't make it easier for us. It would be nice to have the opportunity to run for a legislative seat and then run for a higher office knowing that you're fairly safe in your legislative seat and the higher office is a long