

February 22, 1991 LB 20

an even numbered legislative district. And I suspect that when we do reapportionment this time, if this goes down the drain, there will be interest because we'll have renumbering, or could have. I hope I don't because I've still got signs from 1964 that have 25th District on them that I some day would like to get used up before they get too dirty. But that would be my reason for wanting to keep the number. But, in any event, I think the better public policy decision would be, if you wish to level the field in here for running for office, to require you to resign, not to expand it the other way by taking away the voters' opportunity to make the selection which, in effect, we are doing for dual officeholding. So I would hope you reject the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Warner. I'll now recognize Senator Bernard-Stevens, followed by Senators Wehrbein, Abboud, Ashford and Cudaback. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President. I had not intended to get involved in this discussion, but I was...actually the thought occurred the way Senator Coordsen opened, that we'd simply have a motion to advance the bill and there would be a quick vote and no discussion. So I did put on my light, and I will make a couple of points. Senator Warner, sometime I'll need to ask you about the institutional memory. I'll be curious why they picked the odd districts instead of the even districts, as far as having to resign or not having to resign. I presuppose that, as something Senator Withem said earlier, that one needs to be a little odd before they run for higher office any way, so I assume that's why they made that decision. But, beyond that, I have some problems with the amendment as proposed by Senator Coordsen and others, quite honestly. And part of it, I think, stems from my feeling of how the body is perceived outwardly. And right now, to be quite honest, I don't think we're being perceived very well. We're running rampant and loose with the laws of the state, we're running rampant and loose with the laws and rules within the body. We certainly have some good editorials and good cartoons concerning furniture and what have you, and now at the last minute of Final Reading we're doing something else for ourselves. And I get concerned about that, number one. Number two, I get concerned that it seems to me what we're trying to do, as a body, is to keep all of our options open. We want to be able to decide to run for a higher office, and, if that doesn't work out, we want to be safe so that we have something