

remind the committee that there is one other state, Maine, who has had this system since 1968. There are two other states, Senator Schrock, that are considering it. One is North Carolina and it has passed one house in North Carolina and is being considered in the other house, where, I understand, it has a good chance of passage. Connecticut is also looking at the bill. There may be other states but those are the only ones that I am aware of, and as I told Senator Schrock this morning at breakfast, reminded him that as Maine goes, so goes the nation, and it wouldn't hurt us to be the second in line or the third or the fourth on this bill. I think that is not really the point, though. The point is, is this a good public policy? I think it is good public policy. It would prevent the landslide kind of electoral vote when you have a relatively close popular vote. It would also come closer to assuring us, I think, that one person doesn't win the electoral vote while the other person wins the popular vote. So for those reasons, I would encourage the passage of this legislation. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. I will now recognize Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President, members, I rise in support of this legislation and would do so for a number of reasons. Senator Schimek gave you some of those, but let me add another point of view. I have been quite actively involved in a number of presidential campaigns, however, always on the losing side. I think I have a sense of how the Iraqis felt as they were invaded a couple of weeks ago by the Allied Forces because that is the way Democrats in Nebraska feel lately when the presidential campaigns come around. But, nevertheless, I think whether you view this issue as a Democrat, in my perspective, or as a Republican, I think the perspective that would be best is one as a Nebraskan because what has happened to our state in terms of presidential politics is that we are being left behind. We once were a state of great importance to the presidential campaigns because we were one of the few states with a primary. As you recall in the sixties, we had quite a bit of attention paid to this state in the primary as Kennedy ran against Richard Nixon, and we also saw Bobby Kennedy here in 1968, and we saw, again, Richard Nixon, and we had quite a bit of attention paid through into the sixties, but then as the seventies came and more states decided that that made some sense and they moved to primaries, we got left behind and now, I am afraid, as we look to the next presidential election next year, as we come up in