

elections. And by having this sort of a system change, Nebraska does break the mold and comes out of the way the other states other than Maine do it, but I think that's all right. I think trying this out and experimenting with it is the way to go. The concept that Senator Wehrbein talked about having a president being very parochial in looking at individual districts, you know, I can't see that. I can't see how a president gains by becoming totally taken by each individual district, congressional district in the country and thus filling up the support that they need to be elected president, but he also talked about the president being more cognizant of what is going on as a result of this district scheme and I think that's probably the case. I don't think you will see a president preoccupied with these local parochial issues but I think they'll be perhaps more aware of, at least more attentive to them to some degree and then ultimately I think blending them into a national perspective in national action. In a way, this almost reflects, this issue almost reflects on the district election system, questions we've had with county boards in Douglas and Lancaster County. This does break down the system a little farther. Maybe it will bring the president a little closer to the people, but I don't think it will be overly shifting that focus into a way that would be negative. In fact, I think the slight shift that would occur would be a positive one. So overall I see this as a benefit. Again, I go back to one of my comments when we were on General File. I think we've seen Nebraska bypassed in the electoral system where once in the primary in the sixties we used to have all the candidates out. We had a lot of attention in the Nebraska primary.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: It was one of the few states that did have a primary vote and we were early in that system and a lot of attention was paid to Nebraska. We don't have that anymore. We're not late in the system. A lot of states have got primary votes, most of them much earlier than we are. Nebraska is getting lost in the shuffle. We're getting left behind and one of the things we can do is to make this change again unique other than Maine but, nevertheless, innovative and in a sense perhaps attract back some of the attention we once had for presidential candidates and energize the people of this state to be interested in politics and interested in government and I