

district, the Democrats may win the second district, the first district is a toss-up and the (inaudible) are a toss-up but why bother coming? Whereas under the present system your reward for coming is you get all five votes and that is what you need to get elected and I think that is what indeed does work and I think I would argue that if you adopt and pass this bill, what you really do is not enhance Nebraska's prestige and I agree with Senator Wesely. I think it is unfortunate because when you compare us to the sixties, you know Nebraska, when it comes to presidential politics, is not what it once was. True. But I think you have to deal with that on the primary end of things and by doing this particular bill you don't enhance Nebraska's image in the national spotlight, you only dilute it. And so, I mean, I hesitate even to adopt, support Senator Wehrbein's bracket motion because I really just want to kill the bill, but, obviously, I understand that something is better than nothing. I think the body should at least bracket the bill. If we're going to do that, then, you know, Senator Wehrbein's amendment may be something to look at. I mean, if the people of the country want to do that, let's do it but I think by Nebraska being innovative in this measure, we'll actually dilute our standing in presidential politics and I don't think that is good for the electorate of the State of Nebraska.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise in opposition both to the bracket motion and to the amendment. I guess, Senator Wehrbein, first of all I want to thank you for letting me know ahead of time that this is what you're going to do and sharing with me your reasons for doing it. I appreciate that very much. But I guess I object to the idea of bracketing this. If we were of a Congress of the United States and we were talking about an electoral system of this nature for the entire United States, then perhaps I could understand your reason for a bracket motion. As it is, we're talking about one state. You know, we're talking about five electoral votes and this whatever we do here today is not going to be earth shattering one way or the other. I think, Senator Moore, that the idea of having five votes bring presidential candidates into the state in great hordes is somewhat amusing. You and I both know that five electoral votes is not significant enough to get much attention at all from the presidential candidates. I think we should look at it from the other aspect and that is from the voters' point of view. What this program, what this bill will do will allow