

of State and other people, as we looked at the election schedule, basically the concurrence of the committee in that process was there just is not time to have a primary election to do what a primary election typically does. It gives the candidates an opportunity to go out and speak to the people, get to be known and share some issues. At best, a primary election of this type rushed through is going to be simply a popularity contest on the ballot with the names that are there and then they would go into their regular campaign. And so I don't think that's fair to the people that go into the polls. It isn't fair to the process at all and so that's why we opted to go with a petition process where those candidates names are technically on the ballot and then they can launch into a regular campaign and separate themselves in the normal campaigning process for the electorate to decide. And so I rise in opposition to attempting to hold a hurry-up primary in order to accomplish this task.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Conway. Senator Hefner, followed by Senator Peterson.

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the body, I rise to support Senator Peterson's amendment. I think it's a good amendment. We still have time to get this on a...to have a primary election and I think that the primary election is very, very important to the election process. I think it would be more fair than the petition deal. As I understand it, they could still go ahead with a petition...with a petition route and be eligible to be on the primary too or even on the general election. So I commend Senator Peterson for bringing this amendment to us. Otherwise, the only way that these candidates could get on would be through the petition process. So why...why don't we go ahead and do this? I realize this will probably cost the counties affected a little...little extra money but I think that we want to preserve the integrity of the election process and, therefore, I would encourage you to support the Peterson amendment to LB 9. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: Madam President, I think this is a lot fairer process and there is time. I checked with the Secretary of State and I don't know why Senator Conway wants to drag his feet on this, but I know my people prefer it. Sure, it's a short time period but the candidates that are going to run know it already and they can go ahead and file in the short time period.