

election, the sacred right of election in the Nebraska Constitution is not sacred in that Constitution when, in fact, it boils down to the fact that the members that are seated have the right to determine the qualifications, the status, and, again, and I doubt if this body has ever done it, to overturn the constituents in terms of the majority vote. But the Supreme Court of this state even said, in that particular case that I was involved in, this body has that right. This body has the final decision relative to who is seated. Now if we have that right, if we have that divine right in our Constitution, then I question how much value you can give to the certificate holders. And, granted, I think morally, I think that is something that has bothered me a great deal to know that we have people who have gone through elections, have expended time, energy, and even something valued much lesser in terms of that, and we all understand it is the money that is associated with it, but given the collision course that the court put us on by virtue of the reinstatement of Madison County, I don't know of any other turn that we can take in the road. And I think LB 7, as it is written,...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CONWAY: ...is probably the appropriate course to go, and, granted, it is not a solution in sense of making people happy. There are, obviously, going to be individuals that are unhappy because there is under many situations we can find some way to divide the marbles up and give a few to each and hope that everybody is somewhat happy and shares in the disgruntlement. Here is a situation that is a very clear set of circumstances which you have an 180 degree decision. You either are here or you are there and there is nothing in between, and I wish there was a good moderating situation to be able to turn to but there is not. Not having an election or holding an election, either way, does not solve the problem in and of itself. To not have 33 votes on this bill to enact this situation prior to the November election puts us in probably a worse scenario than we are in now in terms of the complications that would come from that. Now we are going to end up having more elected senators...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR CONWAY: ...than we even have member seats in the body for those. So I urge you to not get caught up in the rhetoric