

January 18, 1995

SENATOR CROSBY: ...and they say yes to everybody. Yes, I'll vote for you; yes, I'll vote for you and then they vote for whomever they want to. So I just think it would be a real mistake to take away the secret ballot and I know there is one organization in particular that wants this open ballot and what I say to them is what some of us did in the fifties, Republicans and Democrats both, we tried to get a petition signed and on the ballot to put it back to a partisan Legislature. It didn't work then. It might work now, but that's what they have to do. They can't come in and change the structure of the Legislature unless they change the way Legislature is elected. So go back and tell them. Do that. If they're listening, I'm saying to them, do that. If you want to try that, fine. That's the way we live and that's the way we work, but don't come in and say, you are a bunch of cowards or whatever because you're voting on a secret ballot for Chairs.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR CROSBY: It's not logical. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, excuse me, and members of the Legislature, when I was in the military, one of the worst places for rumors was the army barracks. Then I worked in a barber shop, rumor mill. And when you're in those settings you can see how petty, vindictive and retaliatory people can be. On the floor of this Legislature, if a person were running for one of these positions and you put the vote on the board, that person would just know who to try to get even with. Senator Witek, if you have been so blind while here that you don't see the pettiness and vindictiveness that occurs now, then I can understand why you would say, naively, I don't think it would do anything, I don't think it would hurt anything. It would help the system and make everybody feel better. The Nebraska Constitution requires that our votes on issues be open so the public can see how we vote on those issues that relate to the welfare and business of the state. The people who put the Constitution in place provided for the Legislature to organize itself and deal with its internal affairs in that way. One of the deficiencies in American education is that there is not teaching in these classes called Civics about the true dynamics and fundamentals of legislative bodies and discuss how human nature, in fact, works. You have all these plaster images