

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ...college student here in Nebraska. You would have seen that year the state did go democratic, went pretty strongly for Lyndon Johnson. However, the third congressional district, true to its roots, stayed as a Republican area. And that year Barry Goldwater would have ended up with one additional electoral vote in the column. It's really not an issue that's revolutionary. It's not going to change the face of Nebraska politics. It's one that the fact that Nebraska and Maine are a little different may cause some other people in other states to take a look at this whole peculiar, antiquated system we have known as the electoral college. I think Nebraska made a bold step forward. A lot of people are getting pushed because of partisan considerations and newspaper editorials to make this change back. I think we ought to stand up and say we made a good change...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ...a few years ago, and I would urge you not to advance LB 65.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. The Chair recognizes Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam President. Madam President, members of the Legislature, I support Senator Kristensen's bill, first I want to state that up...and I have been involved in this particularly two or four years ago. We've been through this twice. I'm going to take a little more pragmatic approach this time, not necessarily partisan, although I recognize what some have said about this. It appears that it's that way, but my interest in this is that I believe the presidency, in this case, as part of the executive branch, should not be subject to the whims of a district election. And that, in essence, is what this is turning toward if we start concentrating on the electoral college and the votes that come out of congressional districts. I think it could be considered to being akin to having our Governor in this state, as executive branch, elected by districts, be it...could even be considered legislative districts. I believe the presidency of the United States, executive branch should be one, as it has historically been, I believe, more subject to the consideration of the country as a