

Nebraska to become the magnet for a variety of fringe or small interest presidential candidates who are interested in nothing else other than attention, and that's what's going to happen, and I want to prevent that damage from occurring. Now, I think Senator Withem does have a good point, Senator Schimek has a good point, and that is the issue of the free agent elector, the free agent elector who doesn't necessarily have to vote for it. That has not occurred in this state. If somebody wants to put that amendment, and they'll vote for the bill because of that, I'll certainly be willing to entertain that amendment. I don't know that it's necessary, I didn't feel that it was. But if there is someone who says, look, the only reason I am not going to vote for this bill is because I want those electors to be tied in, I'll support the amendment with you, I'll cosign it and would be happy to sponsor it. But I suggest to you that probably is not the reason that anyone is going to vote for or against the bill. The real issue here is do you place the State of Nebraska at risk or do you not. I suggest that if you pass LB 65, you're going to avoid this. I don't want Nebraska to look silly. I don't want us to become the scourge, on election night, and I don't want us, through some political campaign, to attract all the fringe elements of the people who are seeking publicity solely for the purpose of gaining some attention. Let them go to California, let them go to New York, or let them go over to some other state that's got riverboat gambling or something that they want attention, let them go do that, but that's not for this state. I don't want to place the congressional districts in the State of Nebraska in jeopardy, it doesn't make good policy, and I would certainly hope that we'd pass LB 65. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. The Chair recognizes Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I'd like to take some time to talk about some of the points made by my good friends, Doug Kristensen and Andy Abboud...I mean Chris Abboud, and Senator Wehrbein. Sorry, Chris, I just couldn't resist that. A lot of points have been made today that, in my judgment, from time to time they have not really been on the issue at all. And that's fine, in fact, that's usually the case. We'll dance around the issue and we'll pontificate about philosophy, and scourges, and silliness and what have you, but we won't really talk about the real issue. How many people in the body have ever gone to their district and