

wasn't the reason for passing this bill, that we would get more attention. However, I do think that we did get some attention because of our new system, and I think it was the kind of attention that we wanted. Senator Bernard-Stevens has just mentioned it. The candidates and the parties felt that everything was open here and that they had to work in the state and that they had to put some resources in here. And I think, from that aspect, I would say, yes, the attention was positive. Attention did work well. I don't remember anybody ever saying that Nebraska looked silly in this, except the Omaha World-Herald, in their headline, said Nebraska looked silly. Well, I don't think they looked silly. I think a lot of people were interested in what was going on in Nebraska. I remember at one point I had a call even from the Japanese press who were interested in what we were doing here. So I think that's not a legitimate argument. And, in fact, quite unrelated to what Senator Bernard-Stevens did, I happened to call Hal Bruno, because I've known him for a long time, and I asked him if he'd ever made any comments about Nebraska's electoral system. And he said he certainly didn't recall any. He wouldn't absolutely promise me he hadn't because as a political commentator sometimes you say things off the top of your head, but he certainly wasn't out to destroy Nebraska's new system. I think the idea of a fringe candidate maybe should be somewhat worrisome, but I think it's rather a bogus issue. I think we have to trust the people in Nebraska not to throw away their votes not to waste their votes on a fringe candidate. I also agree with Senator Wehrbein, that if there is a national move in this direction that perhaps we ought to give it a little bit different look. But there's not a national move in this direction. There were some states, back in 1991, when we passed this bill, that were looking at it, North Carolina, I believe Ohio, I don't remember, Connecticut, I don't remember the exact states. But it only got through one house in those particular bodies. So if it's a national move, it's going to move slowly and I don't think we have to undo already what we did before. Let's try it, let's just try it for a few more years and see, give the system a chance to continue to work. See if it doesn't do what we want it to do, and that is primarily promote grassroots activity and give the people of Nebraska a feeling that their votes really do count. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Hillman wishes to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature today, Bob Busch, from Mitchell, Nebraska; Leonard Green, from