

take notes, and everyone knew that he was taking notes, and it was just kind of a quiet understanding that it would be all right as long as it wasn't until after a good many years that then the notes would be made public, but they thought there should be at least some documentation. So when you go back and look at Madison's notes that he took that were later put out, Elbridge Gerry made an interesting comment. He said, and it was very similar to Senator Kristensen's comments in the opening statement or the opening dialogue on General File. Gerry said it is not clear that the people ought to act directly, even in the choice of electors, okay, even in the choice of the electors on the electoral college, because the people simply were too little informed of personal characters in large districts and liable to deceptions. And so they really wanted to put a barrier, if you wish, between the people and actual...those actual that were going to be in charge of making the decision of who was going to be President of the United States. And there is probably some...a lot of argument pro and con of that, certainly in those days they didn't have a lot of communication devices. It took a long time, now that I think about it, probably about as long as it takes a letter now to get, but it took a long time for information to get to the colonies. In fact, you know, it would be weeks later, sometimes months later where South Carolina may find out what actually was going on at the Constitutional Convention, and so on. So there was a lot of concern that the public would not necessarily be as informed. The discussion, though, ended up being, if you'll remember, that the people would not have a direct say. And if you go back to the Constitutional Convention and the original constitution that we had, the people didn't have much say at all. They were going to have their say through the states and the state legislators. Senator Kristensen's argument on General File was, you know if we allow the public of Nebraska to actually have more of a say in the president,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...say, for example, that the...say, for example, the Third District would vote for a third party candidate sometime and that electoral vote would go there, that Nebraskans would be prone to some quirk out there, some quack that would come in, spend millions of dollars and we might throw our votes away. I honestly have more faith in the people of Nebraska. In fact, I might even argue even if Nebraskans wanted to vote for a third party person, who had no...no chance of