

there that really had agriculture or really had what was important to maybe the western part of the state truly at heart, that my rural colleagues would say, you know, that's fine, we understand that our people really want this person, but we would like to have the majority of Nebraskans view, which would mean we would like the election be...would be dominated by the majority vote of Omaha and Lincoln. And it is their collective wisdom that our electoral vote should go and vote for the President of the United States. That always intrigues me. The fact of the matter is if you go to the Constitutional Convention and you start winding your way down as to how we got where we are today, it was an accident. The process we have now was never really dreamed of or thought of in the Constitutional Convention. The fear that Senator Wehrbein and others talked about on General File is an understandable one. What would happen if every state went to something like Maine and Nebraska? Now think about that for a minute. What happens if every state believes that the congressional district and the people in that district should have a direct say. I think that would say something in itself where the state or the nation, as a whole, is saying that the way that it is going now is not the way that we would like to have it continue. That would not be the downfall of the election process. That would be the next evolution of our election process, the same evolution that has taken place since the very beginning of time. You remember that it used to be that the top vote getter on the selection of the national legislature for the president would be the President of the United States, the guy that came in second...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...would be Vice President. We don't do that any more, we've evolved. So I am not concerned if all of the other states do so because that would be such a popular uprising in the nation that that natural involvement...evolution into the new system would be what the people of the United States wanted, and I think the legislatures would be saying, hmmm, if the public wants it, we think it's a good idea too. The only question before this body is not, Senator Maurstad, you're correct, it is not a partisan one, though we all know that that is what this vote is being put do to. The only question that I think the people of the Legislature need to ask is go to your coffee shop and ask the one question, those people that voted for a losing cause on a presidential race, do they feel comfortable knowing that their