

February 15, 1995 LB 65

vote never counted, period.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Mr. Speaker, is my light on next?

SPEAKER WITHEM: No.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I oppose the kill motion obviously after discussion on General File. I have no problem with what Senator Schimek would do in making the binding vote on the electoral college delegates, that probably makes sense and I would not oppose that. But I still don't think that it is time for us to go to district elections, so to speak, and I know, it might be a long leap to say that we go national, if Nebraska and Maine become leaders. Perhaps that will not happen. But I think that we have to look ahead in the scheme of things to see if this trend would continue and that is what I propose to attempt to stop that in the bud now. We don't really know what will happen across the country, in time that this might catch on. My point really is in opposing the kill and supporting the bill is the fact that this is an experiment we don't have to make. That long term the president is one for the whole country, that the electoral college is, maybe not the only way, but at this point the best we have way to elect our president. We have congressional districts. We have for the legislative body, we elect our representatives to represent us on a district basis, on a state basis, where there is the House or the Senate. The President of the United States should be one for the whole country, and to fractionalize this over time, to make them somewhat more responsive to various districts, whatever they may be. You might argue the states are that to some degree today, but if we drop this to the congressional level, 435 districts, it fractionalizes this to the point that it will change over time, and I am not saying next year but over time, that it will have an impact. And I don't know, I can't see that far into the future but I have no reservations about the fact that I think we need a fairly strong presidency as we face foreign policy issues, many of the other issues, as the United States has become a world leader, and so I...perhaps this has taken perhaps an academic approach to it, but I'd say let's