

enjoyed my conversations with Kent on a lot of issues as far as the people's right to have a say, you know one of the things that is hammered home time and time again is that the people feel they have an ability and a reason and a rationale of voting on petitions and the petition process and the initiative process. If you go to the coffee shop, you'll ask on the electoral college, you will get the, I think, the feedback that the electoral college is not the best system. If you take that strategy, if you remove the electoral college, what would the system be? The system would be the direct popular vote by the people for the President of the United States. Okay. What would that do for Nebraska? Well, we'd have a very small say but if it was a very close nationwide election, our 400,000 votes, or whatever it may be cast total, would actuall...could make a difference on the presidential selection. We are not going to...we are not going to that method. That's a very drastic method that the whole nation would have to do. What we, in Nebraska, are saying by the law that we have now is that the electoral college is an okay system if we want to keep it, but in order to keep that system, we'd also like to give Nebraskans a feeling that their vote really may count, because if you think about it, if you were on the Democratic Party side, and you voted straight partisan politics,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...voted for a Democratic presidential candidate every time, never would you have had an electoral vote count in Nebraska in a long, long time. Try to convince that person that their vote will have meant anything. On the other hand, if you go to a person and you say, you know, in your congressional district, in an area that people think a lot of the same ways because you have a lot of geographic similarities, would you like the idea that if the majority of people in that district voted for president, that your area's vote would actually be registered for voting the President of the United States, I am going to bet you right now they would say, that would be great. That would be super, and think about it. The controlling party, if it is the Republican Party or Democratic Party, makes no difference, if all of a sudden they are afraid that one district may go to the opposing candidate, think what that does...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.