

the year 2006, I was a little unclear of the wording what happens in the year 2006 because that language still remains there, and I think it would be somewhat confusing as to what would happen the year 2006. But until I hear your opening and your explanation of the amendment, I would probably yield to you the rest of...no, you know I am not going to do that because you are going to take up a period of my time. Madam President, I would certainly urge the body to reject the Bernard-Stevens amendment. We have had this discussion several times. Obviously, this is the bill dealing with the Electoral College and the selection of those. The intent of LB 65 and I think the plain language indicates that what we are going to do is scrap the experiment that we started with a few years ago to allow the two members of the Electoral College from our state to be done at large, and the other three elected by districts. LB 65 rejects that philosophy and goes back to the way that it has been forever and the way that all but one of the states in the country operates, and that is that winner takes all. Whoever wins the popular vote of this state, obviously, would have the opportunity to take all the electoral votes. The reason that you want to do that certainly is that candidates who want to make a statement or who want to gain national attention could pour in tons of money into one district, try to attempt to steal one electoral vote for the pleasure of seeing themselves on election night and try to gain some attention for their cause. I think that is poor policy and places the State of Nebraska at great risk. I think that the Bernard-Stevens amendment, although shows a softening of his position, I am sure that eventually he will vote for this bill, but I would hope that at this point in time you reject his amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. It was a different procedure this morning. Usually when you have an amendment that is carried over for about a week after the opening, that the introducer of the amendment is at least granted some initial, a couple of minutes, to explain what the amendment is. So if we are going to keep...if we are going to keep on this particular procedure, I will make sure that we follow this procedure the rest of the year so that the body will remain somewhat ignorant as to what the amendment was and the opposition will be able to technically open. So it is an unusual process and Senator Kristensen, I know, really