

February 28, 1995 LB 65

terms of the popular vote. Nebraska tried to meet this objection but now it appears that the experiment is going down the drain. It won't make much difference, probably, but it wouldn't hurt to leave the present system in place through another presidential election or two just to give it a chance to show results. And that's all I'm asking with this amendment. I am not saying that we keep the experiment forever. I am saying let's simply let Nebraska's public work with the experiment for three elections, three more elections, and then after that the experiment is over, and after that we go back to the old way, but with one fundamental difference. Nebraskans will have experienced the new experiment, if you wish, for four presidential elections, and if Nebraskans at that point say, you know, we have experienced it, we've had times where there has been no change, times where there might have been... there was one change and one vote was counted for different than the total, we will have some input from our constituents, and they will be able to say clearly we liked it, we didn't think we would but we did, or we thought we would and we didn't. We will have that feedback, and if they would like to have the experiment continued, then in the year 2006, there would have to be a bill introduced to continue the experiment. I think it's a fair way of dealing with how we vote for President of the United States. And I would close with two comments. Number one, for those in the northeast, I don't care what political party you are from, if you live in the sparsely populated areas, your vote for President of the United States will be dictated by Omaha and Lincoln because that's where the population lies. Think about that, where the majority of the population is, when it is winner take all, that's the area that controls. If we want to have where the people of our state, and I don't care about Iowa, Kansas, New York, New Jersey, or anyone else, if we want the people in our state to have a new sense of participation and a new sense of importance on their vote for their President of the United States, this is the type of system that will give them an opportunity to have that. They will know that when they vote, if the majority of people in their district agree, that their vote will count where now they know it probably won't. The two parties will know that they can take nothing for granted in any congressional district and two-party...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...competition will be at a heightened state for presidential election, which we all know is healthy