

be one of those that would put us in the column and we could make political hay, but there would be no consequences to pay and maybe every other Legislature would say the same thing. So these types of amendments, I think, should be rejected out of hand. But as Senator Kristensen pointed out, nothing will come from that conference which would go directly to Congress as a recommended constitutional change. But I think the idea in the minds of those who are pushing for this conference is to have an organization which can focus and develop language which will be compressed into a proposed constitutional amendment. There will be contacts in Legislatures all over the country to build up support for it. It would then go to Congress with the backing of this organized effort. When it reaches Congress the same pressure would be brought to bear to try to get the majority vote...the super majorities necessary in both houses. If that occurred and the proposition were sent back to the states which originated from the states, it would certainly then be ratified by the unthinking, poorly informed state Legislatures. One reason electing senators was taken from the Legislatures and put in the hands of people was because the Legislatures were so easily corrupted. There were special interest groups that controlled Legislatures with the avowed purpose of electing a certain person to the Senate. And in those more openly and honestly corrupt days, senators carried more weight in determining who ultimately would be president. So sometimes a U.S. Senator had more political power, when it came to the real world, than the President of the United States. So from this conference I would not want to see anything in the form of a proposed constitutional amendment to be brought back to the states.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** One minute.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** There would not be, in my opinion, sufficient opposition to derail that type of train. And I do believe a certain momentum force will be generated by virtue of this conference even coming together. Anything that comes out of it will have more weight than the same thing if it originated from all of the Legislatures acting as individual entities. This is an organized, agreed upon activity. So I wouldn't want to see anything in the way of a concrete proposal to amend the Constitution to come forth from that conference and made a part of this petition or action plan.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senator