

Whereas, in recent years, states have been the principal agents of government reform, including updating their Constitutions, modernizing and restructuring governmental institutions, and, along with local governments, have been the pioneers of government innovation, thus responding to the needs of their citizens. Maybe they should say to the needs of some citizens, but if you review what the states have done in the way of mutilating their Constitutions, that certainly is not a recommendation for this conference. But I am not going to hold us to what is said by way of self-promoting because state representatives were involved in putting together this language. There are all kinds of conflicting provisions in state constitutions. There are incoherent provisions. There are contradictory provisions. In fact, as much as Senator Witek and I have been getting along on this, she supported a term limits amendment, which the public feels they have added to the Constitution, that is full of a hodgepodge and contradictions, inconsistencies, incomprehensibilities, and on the whole, in my mind, is unintelligible. So if that is an idea of what is to be done to the U.S. Constitution, I can see why Senator Witek is so worried about a constitutional convention. She would not want done to the U.S. Constitution what she and others have helped do to mangle, mutilate, abuse, assault, trample in the dust the poor defenseless Constitution of the State of Nebraska. I am not going to try to change any of this language, but I think it is kind of telling and they were wise not to give examples of how these state constitutions have been updated. They were wise not to give examples of what they call modernizing and restructuring governmental institutions. In most instances, that means building more prisons, making them more Draconian, causing people to stay there longer, taking away anything that would encourage rehabilitation or make it possible for people lumped together in that fashion to get along without killing each other. Those are not things of which I approve, but that is about the only restructuring I am aware of that has happened on a massive scale among the states. Local governments are all but totally incompetent. What they will do with their ordinances is have some outfit go through every thing that they've written and try to bring some sense out of it. They put harsh punishments in, jail sentences, for next to nothing in the way of a violation. They put the wrong citation to what the text of the ordinance is supposed to be and they are in worse shape than the State's Constitution. But I am not one of those who feels that just because an organization calls itself a state body or a county body or a local body means that it has anything in the