

opinion of others who want this provision. There was something that existed in the U.S. Constitution from the beginning of its existence, but it was not applied in Nebraska in terms of determining that Independents would be able to vote in primaries until a staff member, I think of Senator Withem's committee, found it, and that the qualifications for voting for House members would be based on the qualifications for those who elect the most numerous branch of a state's legislature. Since Nebraska has only one house that meant that whoever is qualified to vote for the members of that house are qualified to vote for members of the House of Representatives. And since Nebraska...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is nonpartisan and everybody can vote for the members of the most numerous branch of the Legislature, which Independents are allowed to do, they now must be given a ballot of their choice during the primary for members of the House. So because people have not interpreted or discovered something in the constitution, or because it wasn't discovered for a great number of years does not mean that the vitality and the operative effect of that provision ceases to be. I'm going to vote for this amendment because I don't believe that it is constitutional. And maybe I will be in a position myself to challenge it. I do have a little acquaintance with criminal matters, and this would be in the nature of civil action, so I'll just have to brush up and learn the law a little better.

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But I think it is worthy of my performing that service.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNALD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I rise simply to, I think, put a different perspective on Senator Witek's comments about Final Reading. And the comments were that there were plenty of times to amend the bill, that we shouldn't take it back from Final Reading. And again I understand that members who haven't been here a long time may have that idea that Final Reading is not a third round debate, that Final Reading is simply where bills sit and we pass them or not pass them. But the fact is in the Legislature there