

February 1, 1996 LB 964

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Senator Cudaback, would you respond?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Is...there's no way in here, at least it's not your intent that you couldn't have two ballots, two ballots on the same issue here. The way I interpret it there could be. It says, in number 5, on page 5, paragraph 5, the governing body determines the date for the election which is not the same date as another election in which the registered voters of the political subdivision are eligible vote. But it doesn't say the same issue. And I just wonder if there's room in this for some chicanery, if I may use Senator Schmitt's word. The intent is here that this would be an issue by itself for something, is that right?

SENATOR VRTISKA: That is...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Only that issue?

SENATOR VRTISKA: That is the intent.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Right. Thank you, that's all I have. But one of the things that bothers me about the whole thing is there's just such a wide window for chicanery, if I may use the word again. Another one is the 20 days and 10. Now I realize from a practical standpoint 20 days may allow, and a 10 day...that 10-day window is practical covering the state, I recognize that. I would feel much more comfortable if that was down to maybe a 5-day window so that there was not so much opportunity for pressure. I realize that from a practical standpoint it needs to be 20, because in contrast to Senator Cudaback not wanting to criticize the mail service, I'm not reluctant to do that. Mail service is not as good in Nebraska today as it was years ago, recent years ago, because you just...it...some local mail is taken quite a ways away and comes back. If I knew exactly how that was going on in Nebraska I'd talk about it, I don't know. But I do know that many local...much local mail is taken away and comes back to a town, the way I understand it. So that does increase the time that is needed for the accuracy of mail balloting. There are so many areas in here that I'm reluctant to open up. I'm not opposed to having it by mail, I'm not opposed to having more voters be involved in these kinds of elections, that is not really a problem with me. But there is...the problem with me is that there are so many more opportunities now for pressure points, if