

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 3, 1999

LR 10

staggering the terms, and whether they should really be staggered or not, and that, of course, is open to discussion. I am going to turn my light on again because I...there are a couple of other things that I would like to say, but one of the reasons for having staggered terms, of course, is so that you can have that every two-year input from the public like we do. You get, if you have a policy decision by Congress that's ill-considered or not popular with the public, if you have staggered terms, you still get that input every two years, and those of you, who have been observing the Nebraska Legislature for sometime, know that occasionally we really get...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...our hands slapped during an election cycle.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, Senator Schimek raised some interesting points, but one of them I would disagree with her on, and that's that the Legislature could require that a person running for the U.S. Senate, should this become law, a part of the U.S. Constitution, that the Legislature could require a person to resign from his or her House seat to run for the Senate. What the Supreme Court has said over and over is that the requirements or qualifications for office are set in the U.S. Constitution, and these states cannot change the qualifications for obtaining or holding an office. What the state can say is that if a person holds a federal office, he or she cannot hold a state office. The state can govern what state officeholders do. But what I'm wondering, and I'd like to ask Senator Schimek this question. Senator Schimek, why not reduce the term of the Senate from four years...from six years to four years?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator, could I answer another question that you've raised before I answer that one.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Not yet because I will run out of time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay, I would like to respond to the other, but I don't know. I haven't even thought about it or considered