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LR 10

Sena...Squire Wehrbein sitting back there, grass roots, not on your life. It reminds me of a discussion that's going on in the U.S. Senate, and one of the senators stood up because they were talking about the impoverished people and how certain programs needed to be maintained so that the poor would not be neglected. And one of those old mossback senators stood up and said, we have all been poor, we have all experienced poverty. And there was a senator named DuPont who stood up when his time came and he said, Senator, not all of us have experienced poverty, not all of us have been poor. And he was right. Many times things are said by way of rhetorical flourishment, they are not factually or historically accurate. I would have to disagree with my friend Senator Schimek about Congress being able to enact a law that would change a qualification set in the U.S. Constitution, because the courts had ruled that Congress cannot even enact a term limits statute and have it stand because Congress, itself, cannot change qualifications set in the U.S. Constitution, and that's why they were always trying to get a constitutional amendment voted on by enough members of Congress to send it to the states. So those things which are established in the constitution cannot be changed, even by Congress itself. As far as my comment that this bill and similar things benefit the political parties, I am a realist, and I know that's exactly what is contemplated here because those who run for these offices do so on a partisan basis. I'd like to ask Senator Schimek a question.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schimek, is there a requirement in the U.S. Constitution that congressional and senatorial elections in individual states must be conducted on a partisan basis?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But that's how they're conducted in every state in the Union, if I'm not mistaken. Is that true?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I think you're...well, yes,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Outsiders can...