

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

May 6, 1999

LR 4, 5

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Wickersham on the amendments.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I suppose that it is the best thing to do to advance LR 5CA and then continue the discussion to see whether LR 4 or LR 5CA is the right policy to recommend to the voters of the state of Nebraska, because I don't really believe that we should try to recommend both and let them choose. I think that might be a little bit confusing. But as I hear the discussion about LR 5CA and the issue of whether or not asking the voters to adopt that as a particular policy wouldn't make the arguments seem self-serving, and I suppose it would, but that is, in my view, an argument for LR 4CA, because I think that we can actually present that proposal to the people and say that at that point we're taking it out of the Legislature's hands entirely, we're not going to bother you with whatever the Legislature thinks about that particular topic, the Legislature is now completely at the mercy of an independent body, they cannot make any recommendations concerning their own salaries. That is, I think, a relatively strong argument for 4CA. I think it would be a very difficult decision for the people of the state of Nebraska to make in the aggregate whether or not the proposed...any proposed amount that we might include in LR 5CA is the right amount to achieve a balance between a professional Legislature, which I think we do not want, or a Legislature that has the kind of diverse membership that we would think is healthy in a representative body that is supposed to reflect the interests of people all the way across the state of Nebraska. So, I will probably vote to advance LR 5CA so we don't foreclose discussion of that particular proposal. But I think the longer I reflect on the issues and the longer I hear the discussion now on LR 5CA in principle, the more I'm coming to believe that LR 4CA is the real principal proposal that we ought to advance to the voters, when we make a final decision on these issues.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Seeing no further lights, Senator Coordsen, did you wish to close on the committee amendments to LR 5CA?

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, only briefly. Just a reminder that the committee amendments do provide for a sum of