

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

February 2, 2000 LB 510

partisan ballot. I sometimes wonder about the PSC but, definitely, I feel as though give it a chance, see how it works. I believe people of this state would like to see us try this. We can always change it. We're changing it now. But I'll bet you if you put...I'll bet if you put it on the ballot, a lot of our parties, Democratic Party and Republican Party both would be surprised what the general public, how they would look at this. Have any of you ever asked your constituents, have any of you ever addressed this situation? I haven't, but if any member of this body has, I would ..

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR JANSSEN: ...like to hear from them. We may be surprised. Sent out a newsletter just this year with some comments that I wanted returned. I was surprised at the outcome of it. Sometimes if you put something like this before the people, you're surprised at the answers you get back. And I believe that...I believe that we would...we may have...we may have better candidates coming forward to run for these offices if they were on a nonpartisan basis. With that, those are just my ideas and one of the reasons that I put...I voted to put the bill out on the floor so we could have this discussion, and which we are. We're having a very good discussion on it. With that, thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Those senators wishing to speak, Senator Schimek, Senator Crosby, Senator Beutler, Senator Kristensen, and Senator Smith. Senator Schimek, you are recognized to speak on the advancement of LB 510.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I don't intent to speak again on this issue but I don't think that I really outlined for you as well as I could have the first time I spoke why I think this is not a good idea. First of all, somebody alluded to the fact that some people on this floor think that people are elected to serve the parties, and I...I want you to know I don't believe that for a minute. And I think if people in this body were elected on a nonpartisan basis felt like they had to serve the parties, I think we can obviously see that isn't true because this bill came up to the floor today. I