

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

February 2, 2000 LB 510

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...for a second time, and I would hope that we would be very careful what we do here this morning. And I want to say I understand, I want to, once again, I understand Senator Chambers' frustration. I share some of those same frustrations, but I am not certain that this bill solves the problem.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Crosby, on the advancement of LB 510.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I share the same feelings that Senator Schimek feels about the two-party system, just to begin with. I think it's a strong two-party system is part of what keeps United States of America and our states strong. And, yes, we do have some candidates and some offices that are elected on a nonpartisan basis. I'm going to say something here that will sound like heresy. I admired Senator George Norris, and I've said this before, I'm probably the only one around here now that met him, has shaken hands with him, or knows him at all, knew him at all. But he wasn't right about every thing. See, there's the heresy, Diana. He wasn't right about every thing, and one of the mistakes, and a lot of people still think it, the one-house Legislature was great but there should be...that we should have been elected on a party ticket. That won't happen now after 60 years or more, but I do believe in the party system. You have to have some parameters and some guidelines, I think, when you run for office and/or when you look at people who are running for office. And the two parties do offer, they offer some philosophies and some signposts in the road for us to know how people feel about certain issues and/or government in general. As a Republican, most of us feel, I am a middle of the road Republican, but most of us feel that government should not dominate, that government cannot do everything for everyone. The Democrat philosophy, many conservative Democrats feel that same way although they have perhaps a more liberal viewpoint on certain issues and the idea of taking care of people, which I share. But in the meantime, when you start doing this, when you do something like this, you start diluting that two-party system, and I don't like that. Nebraska, in particular, we don't have those caucuses