

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

February 2, 2000 LB 510

Attorney General, because here this isn't just the general public that is going to be filling that office. It's going to be somebody from the Bar Association. We have a natural group and I think that the...that the lawyers do know who the good lawyers are in the state and it should not be of political consideration. So, as I've thought it through, I think that this is a very important bill to be presented to us today and I think this is an opportunity to move forward and forget about the partisan aspect and look at what we're trying to accomplish. If you were going to have surgery, would you go to a Republican or a Democratic doctor, or would you go to the best doctor you could find? And that's what we're asking, that this be done, and I agree wholeheartedly with this approach. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Smith, on advancement.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I feel somewhat guilty for standing up here so many times, but I do want to convey my point that I believe in the two-party system. And Senator Lynch brought up an interesting point, he came from a family of Republicans. I came from a family of Democrats and so I...I think that's off the table. And what's been interesting in listening to this, in addition to what I've stated earlier, is that we talk about nonpartisan and the need according to the duties, maybe not issues per se, but the duties related to the office, and the Secretary of State's Office is charged with the most closely held duty to elections of any constitutional officer and that hasn't been discussed at all. And...and I...I think that we're heading in the wrong direction and that's only based on my philosophy of the two-party system. When it works well, it works really well. I realize that it's not a perfect system, but I think that this bill heads us in the wrong direction. And, with that, I would yield the balance of my time to Senator Schimek.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Senator Smith. Members of the body, I think the discussion has been very good here this morning and I don't disagree with what some of the proponents of the bill are saying. I think the ideal situation would be to