

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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considering what we're doing here. The Attorney General has always been elected on a partisan ballot. We've had some very fine, as it happens, always men, but women have run for it, at least one ran for it the last time, and I just think we are not giving enough thought to what we're doing here this morning. So I urge you, if you haven't really studied or thought about what change this will make in the way the parties are structured and what happens in the state of Nebraska when it comes to elections, don't vote for it. I'm going to ask for a machine vote. Thank you, and I will ask for a machine vote.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Further debate on the advancement of LB 510? Senator Bruning.

SENATOR BRUNING: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition to LB 510 and the general concept of making the Attorney General's position nonpartisan I think is flawed. I think if you're going to do this, we ought to make the State Treasurer nonpartisan as well. I mean the State Treasurer is somebody that handles money, that handles the state's money. And that particular person, you don't handle money based on whether you're a Republican or Democrat. You handle money in the best interest of the state. The argument in favor of this bill, of course, is that the state's legal counsel should be nonpartisan; shouldn't...shouldn't make decisions for the state based on Republican or Democratic theories, and I think that's a flawed idea. I think the people in Nebraska need to know when they're electing somebody how they feel about issues. Typically, the Republican or Democrat label is clear to most folks anyway. This is a little bit of a case of hide the ball. Most of us in here, for example, were all elected on a nonpartisan basis but I'd say most people in our districts know whether we're Republicans or Democrats. That's how we were elected. I understand there's been a lot of concern over the last ten years about the partisan nature of the Attorney General's Office, but I don't think that has always been the case nor do I think it always will be the case. I think if you go back in time and you think about Bob Spire and some of the past Attorney Generals we've had, people have never noticed or commented on the particular party of that person. The current Attorney General we have certainly is a partisan and that probably is the impetus for this bill, but specific cases