

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

March 2, 2000

LB 1170

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to even being able to make a submission for recall, you've got to have another person willing to fill that office is, I think, totally inappropriate. So even if we weren't on just the 15 minutes, this is one of those bills that I would oppose very strenuously.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schimek, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Chambers, I turned my light on for two purposes. One was to correct the record, because I did misspeak a minute ago. It does apply also to SIDs. What we changed was the notice in the newspaper on SID elections because they are mail ballots. And I just wanted to correct that. The second thing I wanted to say, and I think it's important to have this discussion, so many times when people are confronted with a recall election they may be steamed up about a particular issue or whatever, and they vote to recall a person, but they really don't know who that replacement is going to be. And sometimes I think, if they knew who that person might be, they might choose to keep the incumbent in office. And, you know, maybe...this is a new idea, kind of a creative idea, and I think it's really worthwhile to discuss it, because I think that one of the things we did this summer is we had a hearing out in Grand Island in front of about, what, two, three hundred city officials, mayors and city councils. And one of the things that we learned at those hearings was how very difficult it is in cases of recall on...how very difficult it is personally for those elected officials and their families. And the second thing we learned was that it's often very, very divisive for those local towns and cities to have that recall going on. So we were trying to address the whole arena of recall. Senator Janssen had a bill that we've just never quite gotten worked out regarding recall provisions. But I think as a philosophy the committee didn't feel that you should just be able to recall an elected official because you didn't like their vote. I think that's basically what we decided. And...but we couldn't...we couldn't craft language that worked. Senator Janssen's staff worked very hard on it. But this idea at least gives the voter some idea of what