

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

May 7, 2003

LB 598

Franklin Roosevelt was elected to four terms. It was felt that was too many. I...you could make arguments either way. But I think that is what is behind limiting the Governor and the Treasurer.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, am I in favor of term limits? No, but let's look at it from a practical standpoint. It's been alluded to on the floor that people don't know what we do, and a lot of people don't care for what happens in the Legislature. And why is that? I was thinking about that a little bit. And I wonder if it isn't partly the fact that we deal with laws that restrict people's activities, we deal with budgets that perhaps cause additional taxes to people, and they look at everything in more or less a negative tone, as to what we do. So what I think we should consider doing, I think we should wait on this issue, for this reason. I think that the motivation for this particular thing, this term limits, needs to come from a body...and I'm thinking in terms of the State Chamber, the local chambers. I think there needs to be a body of people that are willing to come out and start funding this program and saying...and telling people why it is that we need people to stay longer in the Legislature. I think that it could be perceived as simply a self-serving thing at this point. And I think that these various chambers, including the State Chamber, have a responsibility to the citizens of the state of Nebraska to participate in this. Where are we going to find funding to come up with promoting this program? And I think that you need to consider that. You can't just put something like this on the ballot, have people vote on it, and say, yeah, that's a good idea or a bad idea. I think that any idea that comes out has to be promoted. And I think you have to have a body of support behind that. And I don't think that I've seen that developing. Probably it's like anything else. These things don't develop until they start to