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Nebraska Constitutional Revision: A Symposium

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Nebraska Constitutional Revision: A Symposium

On April 26, 1961, former Governor Val Peterson told a Lincoln audience that unless the government of the State of Nebraska is streamlined, the state may soon become nothing but an administrative division of the national government. There is a need for a constitutional convention, he said, to provide the state with a basic law which is both compact and uncluttered by legislation.

The Nebraska Law Review, in publishing this symposium, takes no editorial position on conventions, revision by commission, or revision by legislative or initiative proposal. The fact of publication of this issue does indicate, however, that The Board of Editors does believe that it is now appropriate, forty-one years after the last state constitutional convention, to take a close look at the Nebraska Constitution. It is time to measure the effectiveness of our basic law with a yardstick of the 1960's—a yardstick that includes the inchmarks of increased federal aid to states for highways, education, and welfare, and the inchmarks which represent demands for more governmental services for less money in a period of creeping inflation. For the most part, this symposium is intended to raise questions and let experts in the fields of government—politicians, scholars and administrators—suggest some answers.

It is admitted that this symposium may not fit into the usual niche reserved for law review material. Herein, lawyers and professors of government discuss the basic laws of state government which ordain and establish courts, statutes, cities, counties, highways, and penal and educational institutions. Collected here for examination is an analysis of the jurisprudence of Nebraska State Government.