

January 15, 1976

PRESIDENT: Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Mr. President, members of this house. There is one more technical problem that I would like to see discussed and I believe that it has not really been discussed yet. During the May primary we also see on the ballot a choice of candidates for the political party, national conventions. These candidates either run committed to a particular man who would like to be President of the United States or they are uncommitted. But, under our system so far, the people do have a choice and can vote for their man to the national party convention whom they think is best and elects, or hopes to elect that candidate for the presidency of the United States. Now, if we move the primary from May to September obviously that is too late to give the people a chance to vote on that issue. I would like to know how that should be organized if this bill LB120 were passed. Of course there is another way of doing it, that is that the political parties themselves maybe in county caucus as it is done in some states, will simply decide who they are going to vote for at the National Party Convention. I still strongly believe that the people should have a choice. If you move that primary from May to September, I can not see how that could be reorganized so that the people still do have a choice. Maybe I would like to ask a question of Senator Koch.

PRESIDENT: Senator, he is going to close debate and I'm sure that he will answer the question at that time.

SENATOR GEORGE: I hope that Senator Koch can give us an answer and I'm sorry really that...to me a rather important point has not been discussed so far, and to me it is a very important part, as to which way I would vote on LB120.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch would you close argument and answer that question sir.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you Mr. President. You will notice that I am still smiling because I have some other bills that I am going to seek your support once more before it is over. Some of them may be equally important. To answer Senator George's question. The amendment that Senator Lewis has offered has struck only the vote for the Independent for partisan offices and the crossover. He still leaves my amendment in there which allows the presidential primary and all star primary, at that time the people of the state would be voting on delegates from either party to the national convention and those people seeking the national office. Then we would follow up as I think is right, with all of those other office seekers in September. There you would have focusing upon two distinct, those of your state separately and those of the national in May, so the parties would not be hurt, they would still be electing their delegates in May and they would still be going to the conventions that fall in July to make the determination as to who the two men would be, or women running for the president of the United States. Does that answer your question?

SENATOR GEORGE: That means that you still have an election in May?

SENATOR KOCH: That is correct, but only for presidential candidates and for delegates from the parties to the conventions.