

February 1, 1996 LB 964

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. And your having said what you said about the amendment making sense might now cause people not to vote for it, so...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Exactly.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I would ask that my colleagues disregard whatever Senator Bernard-Stevens said that might make you inclined not to vote for the amendment. This is a straightforward one, but because Senator Bernard-Stevens had some problems with the bill, I did want him to be aware of what this amendment is because I think it is so reasonable that there is no reason to be against it. Senator Beutler said it's the Governor's amendment. (Laugh.) Well, I've been referred to as the Almighty, but this is the first time that I've been referred to as the Governor. And I will accept that designation, Senator Beutler. This is Governor Chambers' amendment. But I do want to make this point also, I have questions about leaving totally to the discretion of the political subdivision whether or not an election will be by mail or the usual manner. But that's not insurmountable in my mind. If we have this kind of language, at least there is notice that the public has, that consideration is being given to conducting this election by means of a mail process. So I think this amendment, despite what Senator Bernard-Stevens said that may have muddied the water, is a good amendment, and it's the only one that I intend to offer on General File on this bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I do support the amendment, it's a good amendment. I feel a little guilty on this issue. I did not intend to take up the whole morning, but on the other side of the fence I'm glad we did have the debate. It's an issue that deserves to be talked about. And I certainly respect all of your reservations about it, but I just simply feel that the elected people will decide whether to use it. It may never be used, my friends, it may never be used. If it is used and it's not up to our thinking the way it should be, we can change it. We can come back here next year, change it, 25 votes can change it, keep that in mind. I don't want to elaborate here, I don't want to waste a lot of time. But this body can change this. Anyone of you senators in here can introduce a bill and change it, and I think the body will go along with you. If we find