

January 30, 1973

SENATOR STROMER: Very briefly, I would like to support those who favor giving the people of this state a chance to express themselves in whether they do or do not want partisan legislature.

SPEAKER: The chair next recognizes Senator Skarda.

SENATOR SKARDA: Mr. President, there is a motion on the desk. It has been there for 15 min--you have a motion to indefinitely postpone LB 9, Vince.

CLERK: That's right and the motion can be taken up anytime that it--

SENATOR SKARDA: Let's take it up now. I make the motion--

SPEAKER: Thank you, Senator Skarda. Read the motion.

CLERK: Read.

SPEAKER: The motion before the body at this time is to indefinitely postpone. Senator Skarda.

SENATOR SKARDA: Mr. President and members, this is a perennial thing and I've listened to it every session. It doesn't really make any difference to me whether you are partisan or nonpartisan or what and so I think instead of going on and wasting the time we have already wasted, let's take up the issue. I think individually you all know what you're going to do, how you're going to stand and it's not necessarily that I'm going to indi--vote like intended by making the motion to indefinitely postpone but everybody knows what they are going to do. Why waste any more time. We're going to be here until mid November if we keep going as we are.

SPEAKER: Senator Chambers, did you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the comment that I would make is as appropriate on this motion as it was prior to that, the motion having been made. I've never registered as a Demagogue or a Republican. I don't think there is that much virtue in either party so I always run as an independent. Should the Legislature become partisan, I don't know what would happen in the case of somebody who is registered for neither party. Perhaps at the primary, there would be a slot for somebody who is an independent to file, but if there were not an opportunity like that, I'd suppose I would have to be a write-in candidate because I don't think that the way the parties are structured currently I would register as either one with the exception of one possible raise and that's if I would decide to oppose the Governor. In order to have a head to head combat, let me not call it combat, a head to head opposition to him I would have to file as a member of his party so that at the Primary I would have a chance to meet him head-on. As far as the Legislature is concerned whether it is elected by a partisan or nonpartisan method, I can't say from experience I've had here or the experience prior to coming here which method would be superior as far as putting the best people in the Legislature. Sometimes I see flashes in the collective actions of this body of what I could call true human feeling and understanding. Other times when I see things that would make me feel like if the whole Legislature were kidnapped and somebody said that they wanted a ransom, the state might not give them a nickel for all of us. However, my family would give whatever was asked for me and I think I would be bonded out. But in all seriousness, I think the issue is serious enough to be put to a vote of the people. Most people are victims of history. They're victims of tradition. They're highbrowed and narrow-minded about making changes but if this is to be a body which represents