

February 2, 1973

(Start Belt #3)

of our registered voters are going to have to be purged according to this law. Of these fifteen to twenty five percent that are going to have to be purged, right at two thirds of them, sixty five percent are going to have to be re-registered, which amounts to a tremendous discouragement to people. We're finding that a significant percentage of those who are purged are elderly people, in all of the checks that we have run on voters registration lists, we are finding that between thirty and forty percent are those persons being purged are over 65 years of age, and of course why many older people cannot always vote I think should be perfectly obvious, we are finding that this eliminates many people from the jural list, and we are also finding that in terms of the election commissioner counties and in terms of Douglas county in particular which has a functioning challenge system, that if the purge were allowed to continue to operate it would literally wreck their challenge system. The intent which Senator Cavanaugh and I have with this particular bill, is not, and this is one thing I want to emphasize, are intent is not to take away from the election officials, the county clerks, the means which they now, which they have to clear their records of persons who have moved or have died. What we are attempting to do is to simply stop the purge, we are working very hard with the Secretary of State's office in an attempt to work out an alternate procedure which will be introduced as a bill next year. Right now we are simply asking that we eliminate the purge, Douglas county and several other counties have local special elections coming up and we don't want the purge to interfere with the conduct of these elections, we will have a challenge bill that will apply to the whole state next year. I move that LB 198 be advanced to E&R initial.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Snyder.

SENATOR SNYDER: Mr. President and members of the body, just briefly to support Senator Anderson and Cavanaugh's bill here. I think that voting of course, is one of our most cherished freedoms, and I don't think we want to purge people if they don't exercise their freedom of religion or their freedom of speech for a couple of occasions. I think possibly some sort of the purge should be retained, but I would ask those who want that to bring in a different bill at a later date, and to not tell people that if you don't exercise your right to vote for a couple of times, you've lost that right.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Stromer, then Senator Duis.

SENATOR STROMER: Mr. President would Senator Anderson yield to a couple of questions?

SPEAKER: Will you yield Senator?

SENATOR ANDERSON: Yes.

SENATOR STROMER: First of all, what would be the, what is the cost to the average county of the challenge system?

SENATOR ANDERSON: We made some attempt to calculate, the only county I've seen where we have attempted to calculate this would be in Kearney County and it works out there in terms of 4,000 registered voters at about \$200.00, \$250.00 a year. This would be to apply a full challenge system as Douglas County is doing. We feel that there is an excellent possibility the challenge system can be worked out that would have a cost even less than that.

SENATOR STROMER: Does this include the postage for the letter to the original place of residence and then the return postage and then a double check again?