

(Start Belt #4)

A mortician makes a report to the Election Commission when someone is deceased. Now I understand--I don't think it ever happens in outstate Nebraska or probably not in our metropolitan center of Omaha but there is always talk about so many people that are dead that are voting in the larger cities, such as, Chicago and New York. It seems to me that there should be some system where, probably, the doctor or the mortician along with his other reports could make a report to the County Clerk that this man doesn't exist anymore, man or woman, doesn't exist anymore so he could be stricken off. I have looked at some of these registration lists and I find them extremely out of date. So I think you have a big job here and I think it should be done. In a close election, it would be very possible especially in the cities where people don't know each other to swing an election by having fictitious addresses which are vacant lots and people voting who are not living.

SPEAKER: Senator Anderson, do you care to respond?

SENATOR ANDERSON: In response to what Senator Nore is saying about ascertaining whether a registered voter has died or not, the thing that you will find is that in the County Clerk counties, the counties where the County Clerk is the ex officio Election Commissioner, he is also the Register of Vital Statistics so he files the death certificates and if the County Clerk is keeping up his voter registration records, he generally has the best means available of determining whether a person has died if a person dies within the county. Now, of course, if he dies outside of the county, he, probably, will never find this out.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator--excuse me, Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: It seems like the problem is that the--are the clerks doing this? They are suppose to do it, but I wonder if they do it.

SENATOR ANDERSON: I think--I think you'll find that most of the County Clerks do do an excellent job of keeping these records up. And I'm sure you will also find that there are--I'm sure all of you have found that there are areas where this isn't done 100%.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, I'd like to say that I think Senator Nore's point is well taken, but I presume the present law which means that if you don't register, I mean if you don't vote, then you are not registered after two years. I suppose that takes care of the people who die but I don't see anyplace in the present law which says the County Clerk shall delete those names from the list who have passed away. Now, would Senator Anderson yield to a question?

SENATOR ANDERSON: Yes.

SPEAKER: Senator Anderson.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Do you know, Senator Anderson, whether or not it is in the present law that the County Clerk is required to delete those names of people who have deceased.

SENATOR ANDERSON: The thing that we are finding is that it depends on how the County Clerk interprets his own authority. The law says very clearly that if a person is deceased or has moved out of his precinct of registration that his registration is no longer valid. Most County Clerks interpret this to mean that if the person invalidates his registration for one of these reasons that he then has the authority to remove the registration.