

January 30, 1974

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. Chairman and members of the body. Very briefly I'd like to support Senator Chambers in his request. I think certainly discussion is necessary in the area of elections concerning independent voters. I think we have given them far too little consideration as evidenced by the fact we passed bills without consideration on ballots for independent voter, and I think Senator Chambers should be supported in this measure.

PRESIDENT: The chair next recognizes Speaker Proud.

SPEAKER PROUD: The question to Senator Chambers.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers, yield?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: With pleasure.

SPEAKER PROUD: This would permit an independent voter to vote in the Primary.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SPEAKER PROUD: Well how does he..what does he have to do. Call for a Democratic or Republican ballot or does he call for both of them.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right, one or the other, but not both.

SENATOR PROUD: Well, now that's a..I'm not necessarily objecting to your bill. I'll give you a vote to introduce the darn thing, but what kind of business is that. Maybe he feels if he is voting for the man or for the woman. Maybe he has a favorite on each ticket. What does he do about that? He's got to call for a straight Democratic or Republican ballot. Right?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right.

SENATOR PROUD: Well, that's not fair to him is it? He doesn't endorse either parties. It's kind of a party thing, isn't it?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, Senator Proud what you are dealing with is a situation that shows the restrictive nature of the present system. Not only for independents, but for those who are willing to register for one party or the other. You are not allowed to vote freely for the people that you feel are most qualified for an office. You have to vote for those who confine themselves to your party.

SPEAKER PROUD: In your system you couldn't either could you. If you want to vote for one Republican and one Democtra you couldn't do it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No. No you could not do that. The only way that could be done is to have non-political elections and for every office..

SPEAKER PROUD: Maybe that's what we ought to have.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, that's what I tried to do yesterday at the beginning with the Attorney General's office.

SPEAKER PROUD: Well, the bill is probably no good, but I'll give you a vote to introduce it.