

March 13, 1974

political party, or fourth political party whereas in this case it would seem to me that the Legislature be given the power to....whatever number political parties they want to.

SENATOR SYAS: Well, I suppose so, but the original bill does the same thing. All I'm trying to do with this amendment is keep from locking....lock in the parties. I'm trying to let the Independent have their political rights because there's getting to be more and more Independents every year that register that way. And if they don't want to belong to a political party, I don't see why legislation we should require them to.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Yes, well, it would seem to me, Senator Syas, that your amendment is a little more extensive than your intent. That's the way it would seem to me.

SENATOR SYAS: Well, you can amend that if you want to. I don't care if you adopt it or not. I've made my pitch.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp, did you want to be heard on this issue? Oops, not around, all right. Senator Mahoney, we're discussing the Syas amendment actually to LB649. Senator Syas' amendment only.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, I must oppose Senator Syas' amendment because if you approve this amendment, you'll kill the bill. This cannot go across and be able to make it in its various stages. I think Senator Syas' realizes this when he introduces the amendment. I think that the amendment is one this morning that we should oppose and we should vote down.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter, did you want to be heard on the issue? I don't see him, we'll pass then that. Senator Fellman, we're still discussing the Syas amendment here to LB649 on General File.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Will Senator Syas yield to some questions?

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas yield?

SENATOR FELLMAN: Senator, I maybe am dense. I don't understand....I don't think I understand what you are trying to accomplish. If the partisan Legislature was passed by amendment, the majority of members here would run either as a Democrat or a Republican candidate. Now, why couldn't someone file by petition as an Independent because I want.....?

SENATOR SYAS: Because I want to give the Independents one of the bad, sad things I think in our elections, sir, is that the Independents can get no ballot on state offices in the Primary.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Yeah, but the Independent chooses not to be a member of any of the existing parties and voluntarily decides to be unaffiliated which is called being an Independent. Isn't that right?

SENATOR SYAS: What's wrong with that?

SENATOR FELLMAN: Nothing, nothing, I'm all for that.