

April 3, 1974

control the electorate and you only find that where you have the system of excluding people from the right to exercise their privilege to vote. And that's what we have under our present registration laws. Not only do they exclude you from voting for the candidate of your choice but they...our registration laws are such that you have to register ten days before the election which is on the ridiculous side. This doesn't change that. We're trying to work at it one step at a time. So we'd hope that you'd take a look at Section 10. And I would remind you we have taken out of this bill any reference to the September primary because the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee is going to study that issue. But if you want to do something for the public this year in order to cleaning up, reforming Nebraska election laws, you will vote for this bill. And I hope you will pass this on for Final Reading which should come in the next few days. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator from Southwest Omaha. Senator Fellman.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I think that I would respectfully call your attention to the fact that the best part of this bill was evidently killed and the worst part remains. I think a great deal could be said for simplifying registration. I would like to have even gone as far and I think maybe it's too advanced now, but to go as far as being proposed in Congress federally to have a postcard registration. It would really simplify registration to allow everybody to register and everybody on the street would be eligible to vote. If this bill would have simplified registration, it would have been good. Secondly, I think it is a shame that the part moving the primary up to September or August wasn't left in the bill. Everyone who has lived through this long summer, the early primaries that start in winter. I can't see any reason for that unless you want to play in the presidential primaries and get in early. And then we'd have to be in earlier than New Hampshire to have to have any meeting and by the time November came around, it would be all haywire. But to remove the party is to knock the heart out of the system. I would point out to you that California had this crossover voting years ago and abolished it. Wisconsin has had various forms of this and has had nothing but chaotic elections. Now, the system isn't perfect but I would defy any of you to say that the Republican party in Nebraska is filled with corruption or the Democratic party is filled with corruption or the problems that exist in the electoral process in this state are due to either of the parties. The problems might be due to inertia and lack of activity. But they're certainly not due to the existence of the parties. This bill should be killed. The best parts of it have been removed. The worst parts remain.

PRESIDENT: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: No response.

PRESIDENT: Senator Clark passes. Now, the question is, what is the question? Senator Waldron, we were not on an amendment, were we?

SENATOR WALDRON: Yeah, we're on the committee amendment. I move the committee.....

PRESIDENT: On the committee amendment?