

May 23, 1979

LB 262, 569

he want to withdraw his motion, or what? Okay, the next item of business is on the Clerk's desk. The Clerk will read. Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: What's the procedure in my case? I voted for LB 99, which is legislative pay. I would like to reconsider my vote.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Clerk will read.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Newell moves that LB 569 become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, LB 569 is a bill that would allow the Democratic party to select delegates at its state convention. The problems that the Democratic party faces in terms of trying to determine how it will elect or select delegates is a very difficult one, and I need to explain ever so briefly, if I can, some of the problems that we face, we, meaning the Democratic party in terms of meeting the national rules for delegate selection. One of the major problems in this whole area is a problem in which the Democratic party, national party, has set out some rules and some guidelines on how delegates should be selected, and what sort of mix that there should be at that convention. The situation is complicated a bit in that it is very difficult under our present election system to come to this sort of proposal, and let me explain briefly what the proposal is. The proposal is that the Democratic...national Democratic party has determined to do away with one of the biggest abuses that they have found in terms of reflecting the public will. We're talking about representative democracy even in the delegate selection process, and what that means is that using an example of 1972, in 1972 George McGovern as a Democrat, won the Nebraska all-star primary with thirty-seven percent of the vote, but he ended up with eighty-four percent of the delegates, and consequently what happened was, is that he had far more representation at the convention than his actual voter strength would allow. The Democratic party is determined that we ought to be more reflective of the voters, and in order to do that they have developed a system of proportional representation, saying if you get thirty-seven percent of the votes you ought to get thirty-seven percent of the delegates. Now in order to do this with our present election laws it's almost impossible.