

administrative burdens that might impact upon some of our county clerks and election commissioners. It could be enormous, especially when you consider the number of subdivisions that we have in the State of Nebraska, school districts, the hospital districts, ESUs, NRDs, so on and so forth, and, of course, in some cases we've got different legislative districts in the same precinct. It could be a nightmare, again, particularly in some of the rural districts; a bill which has a laudable goal, I would be the first to admit, but a bill which I think is totally unnecessary at this time. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman. Senator Rex Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Barrett, his talk prompted me to say something. In the past years we've made it much easier for the elderly to register by being able to vote in the nursing homes and have somebody there take them a card and they can register. We've made it much easier for the handicapped to register and as Senator Barrett said, it has not increased the voter turnout. Senator Withem says that the people who work have to travel to some place to register. There are some places, I believe, in the cities that take mobile registration cars or whatever have you to the neighborhoods and you know, sometimes...voting is really a privilege you might say and if people aren't going to take advantage of it, maybe they just don't care. Then if they just don't care, maybe they should put forth a little effort to go vote. The bill is going to pass. There is no doubt about that and I'm not really fighting the bill, but as I say, Senator Barrett raised some good questions and I just want it on the record that I'm kind of uncomfortable with the bill because we have done so much in the past and have not increased the voter turnout. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, you may close on the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, just a couple of comments in closing, I guess I can't let Senator Haberman's comment that voting is a privilege go without some reaction to that. Voting is a right that we have in this country and there is a significant difference between that which is a privilege to continue to be earned and worked for and a right. A right is something that by virtue of being a