

January 22, 1986 LB 178, 884

to withdraw LB 884. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record the vote, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to withdraw the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion carried. The bill is withdrawn. Next, another motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator DeCamp would move that LB 178 be placed on General File notwithstanding the action of the committee.

PRESIDENT: May we have order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel.) The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, members, my first recommendation would be that we check this system and find out why one day it's one way and one day another, but then...that's okay. I'm very serious about this and I hope some of the members would be, too. LB 178 was a bill that went into the Government Committee and I have to believe they took it very serious. We had documentation and presentations from the university and other information and let me very briefly and simply explain the issue and put it really into perspective. LB 178 would have a primary runoff if neither of the candidates receives at least 50 percent or some percent you designate. Now, let's use a very graphic and real example of what is likely to happen very shortly. The next Governor of the State of Nebraska will probably be selected by somewhere between 3 percent and 5 percent of the elected voters or the registered voters of the state. That sounds unbelievable, but it's a practical fact and let me prove it right here for you. We start out with a party primary and let's assume just for the sake of discussion and I think it's pretty close to accurate, that one out of every two people in the state who is registered to vote is a Republican. So we're 50 percent of the voters selecting the Republican candidate, or I mean 50 percent. We're down to 50 percent right off the bat. Now what happened in the last primary, major primary, U.S. Senate race, 30 percent voted of the Republicans, 31, whatever the number was, 29 percent or less in some counties. So of the registered voters the people selecting the Governor and the only time you really get to select him, only less than one out of three, so three, 30 percent times five, 50 percent, we're down to