

January 22, 1986 LB 178

elections, let's just go ahead and kill the bill this time and maybe in the future we'll look seriously at this preference voting concept. At least my vote in committee was not to kill or to advance LB 178 as introduced because I felt that the introducer of the bill had pretty much pulled that idea away from us for a consideration and that we were asked to consider the preference voting as defined here in your committee amendment. I, as a member of that committee, never fully considered establishing runoff primaries requiring a 50 percent vote in primaries as primaries are now run in committee and for that reason I am not going to vote to bring this to the floor because I don't think our committee has fully considered the concept of runoff primaries. That was not what I voted to kill. It was not what I voted to consider. I voted to kill the concept of preference primary with the bill as amended by the introducer. For that reason, I think bringing the original bill back to the floor kind of bypasses the committee's consideration. For that reason, I would ask you to oppose this.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I am very sympathetic to Senator DeCamp's arguments, however, I'm going to vote not to bring the bill to the floor for the one reason raised by Senator Landis which is that inasmuch as election time is upon us and inasmuch as a number of people have filed for office, that it would, in my way of thinking, it would not be fair for us to change the rules of the road this year. If we want to change the rules of the road, I think we should change them at a time before there are any announced candidates for public offices, so that the rules are very clear to the electorate and to those folk who consider themselves desirous of running for public office. For that reason, I think that the concepts that Senator DeCamp is developing in LB 178 together with the amendment that he offered to the bill meritorious and worthy, but capable of careful reflection and consideration in the 1987 legislative session. I really think at this point it would be unfair to our political process to change the rules while an election is pending.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins.