

March 13, 1974

PRESIDENT: Motion is to advance. All those in favor, vote aye. Those opposed vote nay. Takes 25 votes. Have you all voted? Clerk shall record.

CLERK: 25.....25 ayes, no nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Bill advances. Next bill LB649.

CLERK: Read LB649. There are no committee amendments, Mr. President. There are amendments offered by Senator Syas which are printed in full in the Legislative Journal on page 970.

PRESIDENT: These are to the bill itself. No committee amendments?

CLERK: No committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Then, I think first that we should read...want the amendments read? Are they long?

CLERK: They're.....Senator Syas' amendments, they're found on page 970 of the Journal. (Clerk read corrections.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: Is this on 970?

CLERK: That's what I have.

SENATOR SYAS: 970.

CLERK: They start on the bottom of page 970.

SENATOR SYAS: Oh. Start at the bottom. Oh, all right, okay, now we're cookin' with gas. He said 970. All right. I move the amendment be adopted. Now, I'll tell you what the amendment's all about. We've had a sad experience in this Legislature right now. And the fact is on that constitutional amendment, we're....where a person runs as a pair...you know, Lieutenant Governor and Governor, we've had some....where we found out that we disenfranchise some people. Okay. Now, the reason I'm offering this amendment is, the fact is that I think that if you put....you make this strictly partisan, you're in trouble. And it's my personal view and only a personal view that someone could attack it on constitutional grounds even though its a constitutional amendment. Because I think that the people that do not belong to a political party have rights too. Where in the federal or state constitution do you find any place where political party has any rights really at all. That's an involvement of time, it's not listed but we do things by political parties in many cases. The reason for the amendment is what I'm trying to do here is save a lot of future trouble in this Legislature. Now, regardless if you adopt this amendment of mine or not, I'm against the bill but...in the United States today, 49% of the people are registered as Democrats the last time I looked it up which was a couple weeks ago. Thirty-three percent are registered as Independent and the rest are Republican or Conservative or whatever you might have. Now, the Independents are not a political party as such but they certainly have rights. They're larger than one of the major political parties in the United States. That may not be true in the State of Nebraska in that order where we all know that the