

April 11, 1974

I don't know what kind of legal problems could be created thereby. Everybody who has filed and wants to run so far will be able to stay filed and will be able to run. Anybody that wants to file as a petition candidate will be able to file as a petition candidate. There is no basis for a lawsuit if these two bills are not passed. Senator Fellman keeps indicating that what I want is a lawsuit. I tell you that I don't. I don't have money to throw away like that. I'll barely be able to scrape up the filing fee which is \$250. And if I can present a convincing case, I won't have to pay that according to recent year Supreme Court decision. But that's what I'm asking you to do. Return this bill to strike the enacting clause for the reasons that I've given.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fellman.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I hesitate to rise to say very much about these bills. For two reasons. One is that probably more than anything of recent dates, this particular question has been written and briefed with letters that have circulated into the third and fourth additions. And supplements. And if this were a court, I think one could say that we would submit the case on the briefs as they now exist and we could waive oral argument and probably all be better off. The second reason I hesitate to talk about this is that the direction of the debate unfortunately has turned to make it appear as if this is some some of a vendetta to keep Senator Chambers off of the ballot. And I want to say to Senator Chambers and everybody else on the floor of this Legislature that that is not at all my intention nor my desire and I would personally like to see Senator Chambers on the ballot and would even help him circulate his petitions to get there. Now let me explain something that I've gone over, I think, privately with many of you and in the form of these letters. This bill attempts to create or fill a vacuum that exists following the passage of a constitutional amendment which sets up a team election for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. What was left out was a way for a person to get on the ballot by petition or by write-in. Senator Chambers says that he is having to do something over and above the requirements of the person who runs in a party primary because he has to go out and find a running mate. And he says because of that and because of this difficulty which this bill attempts to solve, we should toss the whole thing out. That's throwing the baby out with the bath water. What has happened here is that a person makes an election, makes a choice. If he wants to run through a party primary and end up with running with a party label behind him, he must enter the primary contest and subject himself to an election in May. If he wins, he picks up the party label. He also picks up a running mate. If a person chooses to enter his candidacy by petition, he has a much easier way of doing it. He only has to get two thousand signatures from any place in the state and he has to file those signatures by petition 70 days before the election. That means he skirts the primary contest. He skirts all the problems of that primary election. And he goes right to the ballot by petition with only two thousand signatures and it doesn't have to be in any districts across the state. Senator Chambers can pick up his petitions right in his own neighborhood or anybody else's neighborhood. Now Senator Chambers today talks about the problems of the emergency clause and the time problem. It's a fact that the emergency clause was left off. I don't know why. It was not pointed out to me until today. I did not draft the bills but one way or the other, the emergency clause is not there.