

CLERK: Mr. President, actually I have three, but they essentially do the same thing. Senator Elmer would move to amend the committee amendments by adding the emergency clause. (Elmer amendment appears on page 680 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. We've had numerous communications from the county clerks around the state regarding the printing of the primary ballots and probably the most lucid of the letters I have got was from the Lincoln County Clerk at North Platte and can read you a portion of that letter. Would like to ask your help in seeing that LB 602 is passed with the emergency clause. In 1985 LB 393 was passed changing the status on the purchase of election supplies and contracting for election services and now the county election officials across the state are facing problems in preparation for the 1988 elections with the requirements that are now mandated since the passage of this legislation. Bidding on ballots is the primary problem. A county election official does not know when there is going to be, does not know what is going to be on a primary or general election ballot any sooner than 50 days prior to the election. That is the date we receive the certification of candidates, races for school districts, municipalities and other subdivisions to certify special issues that weren't on the ballot. Until that deadline we do not know what kinds of ballots we need, how many, what races, the number of candidates or the special issues. We are required to have absentee ballots ready no later than 35 days before the election, so how can bids be taken, stock purchased, ballots laid out, proofread and printed in a 15 day period? So, in order for this bill to be handled quickly, passed through and be in effect in time to alleviate this problem before this May primary election, it is essential we have the emergency clause. And I would ask the body to adopt this amendment to the committee amendments to adopt the emergency clause.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Elmer amendment to the amendment. I have several lights on. Senator Abboud, do you care to discuss the E clause addition?

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Go ahead.