

January 31, 1980

LB 465

people could go to their own precinct where they will vote in the future and register to vote at the election. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Murphy, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR MURPHY: Well I very much dislike to see us destroy what is supposed to be the responsibility and duty of a citizen of this state. Any person who is too busy to verify that he is or is not registered to vote until five minutes before the polls close certainly should not be accorded a special privilege. If they are that indifferent as to their own registration, how informed and knowledgeable are they going to be about the issues and the people whom they will be voting for, or hopefully against? But the fact of the matter is we do have a duty as citizens and this attempts to make that duty a fraud, to make it cheap, inexpensive, no problems, stop by on your way back from the bar and vote, I think is probably one of the worst moves we could make toward a good responsible government. Participation in government does not mean stopping by if you are not too busy and voting. Participation in government means understanding, a little forethought and a duty to make sure that you are eligible and qualified. I think this would, in fact, weaken the political structure of the state.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Barrett, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR BARRETT: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise in support of Senator Murphy's comments and to speak in opposition to the advancement of 465. Poll workers and election workers are trained to handle ballots and count ballots. They are not trained or they are not schooled in voter registration. In so many cases a lot of information is necessary to be gleaned from that person who is registering on that particular date such as the special use district, the NRD district, wards and precincts. In many cases these people are not equipped...the people handling the registration as well as the people that are trying to register. It also appears to me that it might be unusual that a person who was registering on election day and was not allowed to vote would seem just a little bit peculiar to that person who was registering and as a result I think the poll workers, receiving boards, counting boards, would be subject to a considerable amount of abuse. I would remind the body that county court houses are open

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