

March 20, 1980

LB 627

SPEAKER MARVEL: What is the Newell amendment?

SENATOR KOCH: There is no reason why you can't on Select File place that limit.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, I would...I don't know how much debate would be there. I would open, I would not close. I think we could do it quickly but I cannot allow this bill to advance without an opportunity to try this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, Senator Newell, proceed. No, we are not adjourned.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I will take less than the five minutes. This proposal, would the Clerk read the amendment?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Newell moves to amend the bill: On line 12 on page 2 strike "fifteen" and insert "seven."

SENATOR NEWELL: All right, Mr. President, we are talking about the access, where access to the ballot, what it takes, how many petitions, how many signatures on a petition it takes to put such an issue on the ballot. Now the 15% figure I think is too high. I think it limits access and the 7% figure that I am offering I think has not only precedent in our state Constitution. Since we have authorized these local option initiatives I think that that is the figure that is rational, reasonable and justifiable. I will also say that at 7%, which means that the access would be easier to put such an issue on the ballot, that I could then vote for the one year limitation. Without that I will not be able to vote for the one year limitation. I will have to vote against this bill. I did not favor LB 2 originally but we have it there. We have given the people the option of initiative and I think we ought to make that initiative reasonable. That, therefore, is why I am offering this amendment to change 15 to 7% of the registered voters in the last gubernatorial election to put the issue on the ballot. With that, I urge the body to accept it and I waive closing.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, again in the spirit of brevity because of the pressing time I will be brief but I think we better very seriously take a look at Senator Newell's amendment. I think we have got a bill going across the floor right here that is