

could do just that. The individual who has not yet registered may be embarrassed about going to a polling place when he or she could not vote in that election and that same individual would be more likely to go to register, not at a polling place, yet the proposed cost of providing personnel to have individual register would be on all of us. I am opposed to this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we proceed with the next speaker, in the South balcony from Senator Koch's district, 95 fourth grade students, Montclair Elementary School, Millard, Nebraska, and the teachers with them are Mrs. Nancy Burns, Mrs. Lynette Pfaltzgraff, Lorraine Pooley, Bill Bridges. Where are you located so we may say hello to you? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I am in favor of Senator Burrows amendment and it seemed to me that those of us who hold political office ought to be doing all we can to encourage as much participation in the elective process by citizens as we possibly can. I think any gesture or any activity by public official which is designed to cause more people to register can only serve a wholesome effect or produce a wholesome effect. There used to be in the beginnings of this country many impediments to voting. You had to be a certain race, you had to hold a certain amount of property and there were other things, poll taxes, literary tests and all types of things to disbar people from voting. So what I think we ought to do now is turn that whole cycle around. Because certain legal impediments have been struck down as unconstitutional we now have a clear path to do something affirmatively to encourage people to register and I think the bill, the amendment that Senator Burrows is offering is reasonable. We all know that many people take no interest in the system until an election is right upon us. People seldom think or have any reason to think about registering until near the time of an election. I hear periodically public service announcements by the election commissioner in Omaha telling people that you have so many days prior to the election for registration and after that date you, even if you register you cannot vote in the upcoming election. For those people who have never registered, this is taken to mean that if they don't register a certain number of days before the election they cannot register. So there is confusion about the system and those of us who know about it should do all we can to do away with that confusion. Allow people to register at the polling place. Let the polling place become synonymous with doing all of those things necessary for preparing one to vote and I think in view of the large numbers of people who are registered and do not vote,