

May 5, 1981

LB 209

the State of Nebraska anyway, but to deny an individual that is registered as an independent his choice of one or the other of the partisan ballots, I cannot see how that could be unconstitutional. It seems to me that the argument could possibly be made that to force somebody to be a member of a particular party in order to get a ballot perhaps could be unconstitutional but I certainly can't see how it could be worked the other way around so, again, I just raise the issue. I am not going to promote it enough to divide the question or anything of that nature but I do object to the committee amendments taking that portion out of LB 209.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am a member of the committee and I object to the committee amendments. What this does is this returns the selection of delegates to the smoke filled room. This means that just those people who are somebody or something or big contributors to the party that go to the state conventions have the opportunity to be a delegate. As it is now, any citizen in the State of Nebraska can file the papers and ask for the voters to vote for him or her to be a delegate to the national convention and I believe it should stay that way. We should not return back a step backwards to the old political smoke filled room, the old wheeling and dealing, and just those people who are in the know, just those people, for example, like state senators that can do something influential for somebody should be able to get the nod from whichever party and be a delegate to the national convention. Therefore, I ask you to oppose the committee amendments. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CLARK: Is there any further discussion on the committee amendments? If not, all those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. Voting no, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting no.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted? Once more, have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 10 ayes, 16 nays on the motion to adopt the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: The committee amendments are not adopted. Senator Koch, on the bill.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes one gets a little concerned about actions because normally in here we