

May 5, 1981

LB 209

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion I have is from Senator Haberman to indefinitely postpone the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I gave a half a dozen good reasons this morning why we don't need the bill, amended or unamended. So I will briefly touch on those again so we can go ahead and vote and see what we are going to do about this. Number one, both of the major public parties are against it, the Democrats and Republicans. The County Officials Association is against this. The Secretary of State says we don't need it. Seward County Clerk says we don't need it. The Douglas County Election Commission says we don't need it and there is really no need to change what we have. We are getting along fine. I don't think we have to have any more debate. We have debated it before, and, Mr. President, I just ask that we have the support to definitely postpone 209. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, Senator Haberman in previous remarks in his efforts to indefinitely postpone LB 209 was discussing diversity of legislative districts and other kinds of boundaries we respect for political purposes. He was talking about the great distances and barbecues and I want Senator Haberman to listen to this. Now in Wyoming they have their primaries in September and I am certain he is familiar with Wyoming. Yet the people who run for offices there have found this not to be a great obstruction in terms of their political endeavors. North Dakota has it. Nevada has it. Utah has it. Wyoming. Those are areas rather sparse in terms of population and yet they have found no problems with this. So, Senator Haberman, that is really not a good reason to oppose the bill. As I told you before, I think it is time that we come into tune with the mood of other states and people and move into the late twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first century. I would remind you that the letters you received from county officials to some degree telling you about their problems, it is obvious other county officials don't have the same problems and I know that the Secretary of State says he is going to have to change many chapters of law but that is why he is retained in that position to make those kinds of changes and I think that we should not pass laws here because it inconveniences some elected officials in terms of their duties but we ought to pass laws in terms of what is convenient to the public and I am talking about the citizens of this state. In addition to this, I have a letter here from