

February 4, 1982

LR 210

SPEAKER MARVEL: It is LR 210.

SENATOR NEWELL: Okay. Mr. President, LR 210 is the extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Basically, this had a sunset clause in Congress. It comes up for reconsideration and passage again this year. The Voting Rights Act has worked very well in terms of ensuring minorities and others in the south that they have access to the polls like every other citizen. I would encourage this body to send this memorialization to Congress and to our Congressional delegation and encourage them to support the extension of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I will pass. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, wherever Senator Remmers comes from I have to say they certainly grow them tall. I have to reach up high to even get to the little knob to bring this microphone down to within range. But nevertheless, I support this resolution. I cosponsored it as did a number of other Senators, and it is essential that this Voting Rights bill be extended. There have been indications by the President and members of his administration that if poor people will organize their lobbies and put pressure on local politicians, when the deep cuts come that are proposed by his budget man, David Stockman, the poor and their lobby will be able to use political clouts to bring about changes and protect their interests. But if in the areas where the poor people need the vote the most they are not allowed to vote, they are prevented from voting through stratagems and intimidation, then all of that is so much sound and fury signifying nothing that the President is saying. So all that this bill would do, this resolution would do is say that the Voting Rights Act which has been in effect and has increased the ability of certain people in certain parts of the country to vote whereas they wouldn't be able to vote, we are simply saying, continue a good thing in the way that it is going. And in order not to take much time on this because there may be other issues coming up that I will speak on, I want to tell you one thing and you ought to make note of it. That man sitting across the aisle from me in the gray suit, Senator Newell, has tried me sorely this session and will probably try me sorely some more