

March 1, 1991

LB 192, 477

individual could be guilty of a misdemeanor even though he is in possession of a stolen firearm. This bill was supported by the Omaha Police Department. I urge the advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Seeing no one wishing to debate the motion, we will proceed to vote on LB 477 advancement. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted on the motion to advance LB 477? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of the bill, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: LB 477 is advanced. LB 192.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB 192 was introduced by Senators Robak and Schimek. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 11th of this year, was referred to the Government Committee which reports the bill to General File.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam President. LB 192 changes the wording of the ballot title for referendum measures so that voters cast their ballots to either retain or repeal the measure as opposed to voting for or against it. We all remember the referendum measure we had on the ballot last November when we voted for or against LB 1059, and I can't remember the number of constituents that came up to me after the election and said, you know, I don't know if I voted to keep 1059 or if I voted against 1059. And it seems many times that they weren't sure that the way they actually voted the way they wanted to. Currently, voters are asked to vote for if they want a measure retained and against if they want a measure repealed. LB 192 clears up the confusion by proposing we change the ballot language so that you vote retain if you want the measure retained, and repeal if you want the measure repealed. It's as simple as that. There are summaries on the ballot which do explain a vote either way on the measure. However, they only help if the voter reads them. And I think we're all realistic enough to know that most voters don't read them or even understand them. And we, as legislators, should try to make the ballots and ballot questions as easy to understand as possible. The Pages are passing out sample copies of the way the referendum would be if LB 192 is passed and the way it was last November. When I vote between