

By including mail-in registration postcards in the income tax booklets, we will be reaching a large segment of the citizens of Nebraska. I can't think of any larger mailing that the state does for its citizens or to its citizens, maybe I should say, than the mailing of tax forms and booklets. Adding the cost of the postcards is really a small price to pay to reach this many citizens. As I mentioned before, voter registration files are constantly changing. State law requires people to reregister if they have moved or if they have changed their name or if they change their party registration or if they change their party. In Lancaster County, during September, 1989, to August, 1990, there were 6,348 people who changed their registration in some way. This was 36 percent of all the changes made to the Lancaster County voter registration file. Including the mail-in registration postcards in the tax booklets will also help these people keep their registration current. This registration project provides results. Minnesota has an enviable increase in registration of voting. Joseph Manske feels that this, combined with the driver's license voter registration procedure, has been especially effective in registering voters and updating records. I could give you a lot of figures. I'm just going to give you a couple. Minnesota has a much higher percentage of people registered, 92.3 percent in 1988, compared to 77 percent in Nebraska in 1988. This higher percentage also carries over to the voting age population. In 1988, 66.3 percent of the voting age population in Minnesota voted for president, but in Nebraska it was only 56.6 percent. Even though Minnesota has almost three times more voting age population than Nebraska, it has 24,000 fewer unregistered voters. With that, I would just make a couple of little side notes. There is a fiscal note on the bill which is about \$17,763 just for one year, for '91-92. There would be no expenditure in '92-93. If you take the population of Nebraska and divide it into this figure, it comes out to about 50 cents per voter. Again, I want to stress that the clean-up is as important as the registration, the new registration. Eventually I envision that this state will have a centralized voter registration list and this program would just play into it. The last thing I want to mention is we don't have to keep this program if we don't like it after the first couple of times. We can...we can try it in 1992 and see if it doesn't get the results that it did in Minnesota. I fully anticipate that it will, that's why I brought the bill to you today. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Do you have a