

February 1, 1996 LB 964

special election issues. Some people would go as far as to say we should do it on candidates. I don't think Nebraska is ready for that. And this does not, does not permit this. Some people say it...well, it's a camel's nose under the tent. Well, let me tell you that the people in this room hold the key to that tent. It will not go any further unless we get 25 votes on the floor here to do it. We control it. So we have the key to that tent and so don't let people fool you by that...by that statement. I guess this 964 is self-explanatory. I guess I open myself up to questions if you have any. If not, well I'd appreciate your voting for 964.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Discussion on LB 964. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, good morning, Madam President and members of the body. I rise in support of LB 964 and I felt it necessary to say something this morning because when I was in the Government Committee the other day on another bill, someone asked me a question about how I felt about mail-in balloting. And I said, well, I'm a little nervous about it. I think there's a great potential there, at least, for fraud and I would want to be very careful about how we proceeded with that. I said I'm usually someone who favors innovations in registration and getting people to the polls and so forth, but I'm real cautious in this particular area and I've studied it for some time. After I left the hearing, I found out that they had just heard Jim Cudaback's bill and that it was indeed for local elections. And so...and not only that, but it was for ballot issue elections, not for candidate elections. So I went back to the drawing board and started looking through some of my materials that I've collected over the years. And I really do believe that this is the way to start and that it's a good...it's a good thing to do, Jim. Lots of states have had experience with it, but probably none more than Oregon who, if you'll notice on the chart that I've just passed out, has had it since 1981. And, of course, their recent experience was with a candidate balloting in their Senate race out there to fill Bob Packwood's seat. And to the best of my knowledge, during this process nobody has discovered any instances of fraud. And they've had...excuse me, they've had people out there monitoring it. I also saw a news release on it the other day that said that they saved about a million dollars in the primary and general election in Oregon by doing it with a mail-in ballot. Now I