

February 1, 1996 LB 964

members of the Legislature. A few points that I'd like to make in kind of summary of the discussion that's being...that has been held this morning. When we all came in I think most of us thought this was a relatively benign bill, including myself, probably take a few minutes. I'm sure Senator Cudaback thought it would just be a couple of minutes. I think he probably wish it would have just been a couple of minutes. By the way, Senator Cudaback, if you think you've had a bad day, let me tell you about the day...the last few days I've had. First of all, the good point has been my four-year-old son, Matt, is still with me and that's just been a marvel. It's just been great for me to have him here. He's been such a good gentleman, I hope he's listening because I'm very proud of him. But about a week before the Clerk of the Legislature was talking to a bunch of my students from Sutherland, and he referred to me as a middle-aged senator. And he's absolutely right, but I'd never thought of myself as a middle-aged senator, and so I mean just the reality of that has been really tough for me to take. And then yesterday I had my young son, Matt, we were outside Judiciary hearing, and one of the people, bless their hearts, came up and said, you have the cutest grandson I've ever seen. (Laughter.) Needless to say, I did not support her on the...whatever side she was on I didn't care. So it's been a rough, rough couple of days. Came in here and started listening to some of the comments that Senator Cudaback and others started saying. And it just got me thinking a little bit more about the election process itself. And I would be the first one to admit that our election turnouts are very, very low. We've got to do something to increase the voter interest. And it's much more complex, as we all know, than just saying we want to mail it out, though that may be something that would help. It's much more complex than that. The voter...the lack of voter turnout is a total disjuncting, if you wish, between citizens and their government. And it goes back many, many years, some say it goes back to Watergate and we've never recovered from that portion of it. Others say it was the Vietnam War that caused a lot of it. I mean whatever the reasons of the start, it's very, very deep of voter dissatisfaction. So, though we all would like to see the voter turnout at 69 percent, or 89 percent, or 100 percent, that's not really the issue as far as I'm concerned because I want those things to happen. I do get concerned when we decide that we're going to begin a policy that we don't know how it's going to be effective in Nebraska, and we go ahead and do it so that all political subdivisions, regardless of their size,

10626