

country has been that people care enough to vote. And it's been a struggle from the beginning. Slaves were not allowed to vote. Thank God, we don't do that anymore, but we still have a long way to go, don't we, Senator Chambers? Women were not allowed to vote. Thank heavens, that is not true anymore, but we've got a long way to go. It never has been a process in our country, if you go back from the history, that we've wanted everyone to vote. In fact, it was actually the opposite view if you go back and read the historical documents. There was a very elitist view. The fewer people that voted, those that understood the issues would be able to control it more. In fact, if you remember how the Senate was elected and the House, the state Legislatures elected one body and then that body selected the other in Washington. And the state Legislatures were controlled by those members who, in essence, were in control of the constitutional convention and those that framed the country because they knew they could control who the state Legislatures sent to Washington and then those people they controlled would then adopt the other body's membership. It was never a question in our history of allowing the masses to vote. This is a new concept that has developed, and I believe it is a good concept to develop that we allow the masses to vote. The women's suffrage was needed and necessary, should have happened a long time ago. The slavery issue should never have happened, and you go back to the founders of the constitution and in their wise way in quote in sarcasm, they, too, allowed slavery as a compromise to get some of the other freedoms mainly on economics that they wanted. What Senator Cudaback's bill is doing at this point is saying, a process I do not disagree with, let's let more people vote; and they will if we do the mail-in ballot. I understand that. The thing that triggered me was we want more people to vote on the issues that will affect children when, in fact, the empirical data, if you look at it, shows that the more people that vote, their issues fail. But when it comes to us on our election, we don't want more people to vote. I'm ashamed of that. I'm ashamed of that.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I