TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

February 8, 2005 LB 53

long enough. I also have a letter from the Brennan Center for Justice. I won't take any more of your time, Senator Smith, but I could if you wish me to. It goes along in the same vein.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. Well, perhaps a little bit later. But I'm glad that you mentioned the Brennan Center, because they've chosen to get involved in some campaign finance issues here in Nebraska. Is that also accurate? Do you recall that?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I have no idea.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. Well, I won't belabor you with that. But I think we need to look at a balancing act here. And Senator Schimek has...it's her priority to open up voting for, I think, some 44,000 voters in Nebraska. Is that correct?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator, the figures vary on that. It depends on whose figures you read, but anywhere from 11,000 to 44,000. I mean, there are very good, reputable groups that just don't know for sure.

SENATOR SMITH: What...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR SMITH: ...factors are missing, then, in that question, or the information? I mean, do we not know how many ex-felons live in Nebraska? Is that...?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: No, we don't.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. And I'm going to need more time here. But when you say that they're totally disenfranchised now, is that with the exception of being granted a pardon through the Pardons Board?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, it is. But very few ever get through that process. And I'll try to get you some actual figures. But we heard about those in the committee.

SENATOR SMITH: But that option is there.