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person with whom I'd had a polite, generic conversation, with his children around his side. He closed the door and followed me out to tell me that he could not vote. And I should emphasize, since some know my district, the three or four that I'm thinking about were all white. These persons have a good business, and all that kind of thing, they document what they're doing, and with tears in their eyes, state how they were trying to get back going. But they really didn't want to say, in front of their kids, that they weren't voting, because that would be a bad model. So I appreciate that. I recognize that. But to me, our doing it is not in sympathy for anybody. It is to recognize that when the punishment is over, it's done, and we all move on. And that's in the benefit of all of us within society. I know several felons who are voting, and I haven't noticed any great problems in society because of it. When they get out of prison, they're given a piece of paper which says their civil rights are restored. Some of them take it at the word, and go down to the election commissioner, who has, in times past, taken them at their word and registered them. It's made sense to both of them. Well, it should make sense to us, if we really want these persons to get on with it. I'm wrestling with the amendment. I do not like it, because it delays getting this person involved. And it seems to me there's a factor of recidivism. A person who's voting, who feels like a part of the whole community, is not as likely to reoffend. I would hope we would take that into our thoughts as we consider the entire matter. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Smith, you're recognized.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This discussion of completing a sentence and going back to how life was before the crime was committed I think is a very relevant discussion that we have. I commend various efforts within the prison systems that work toward restoration, mostly of common, everyday things in life that may or may not include voting. But there are other issues involved as well. Senator Schimek, would you ask...or answer a couple questions?

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Schimek, would you yield?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I will if I can, Senator Smith.