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FLOOR DEBATE

March 30, 2005      LB 233, 290, 401, 408, 477

committee...I support all the amendments that make up the committee amendment to this bill, and the underlying bill. I did feel that I had to respond to a comment about the voting for our active military personnel who are overseas, and the concern about whether influence can be...they can be influenced in terms of their vote, or feel some sort of problem. My father served in Vietnam, and I know that voting would have been one of the most important acts that he would have wanted to be able to do, whether he was in a situation where it was an easy thing for him to be able to do to mail it, or in a situation that it wasn't an easy thing. And I have absolutely no concern that he would not have acted in what he thought was the best interest of his vote and his country. And so I have...I absolutely support this provision. And I would yield...no, thank you. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Senator Brown. Further discussion? Seeing none, Senator Schimek, you're recognized to close on the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President and members. I would like to thank Senator Beutler and others for their questions, and remind you that the amendment actually incorporates four bills; LB 408, which allows someone who has not resided in the United States to register to vote in this country where their parents registered, and also made the military provision. LB 233 allows the division of precincts when precincts have gotten so unwieldy and so large that they, to accommodate voters, need to be divided, and it can only be divided. LB 290 allows Secretary of State to adopt the rules and regs to allow satellite voting. And finally, LB 477 allows an absentee voter to receive a new absentee ballot if their original one is destroyed, or it allows them to vote provisionally if their original ballot is destroyed or lost or whatever. So I think those are all good changes to our election law. Some of them...some of the ideas come from the Department of Defense. Others come from the Vote Nebraska Initiative. Others come from individual members. I would urge the adoption of the committee amendments. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. You've heard the