

Approved 3-19-91
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

The meeting was called to order by SENATOR DON SALLEE at
Chairperson

1:30 ~~xxx~~/p.m. on March 5, 1991 in room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present ~~xxxxx~~ or excused:

Committee staff present:

Pat Mah, Legislative Research Department
Ardan Ensley, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Clarene Wilms, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Craig Grant, KNEA
Ron Thornburgh, Office of the Secretary of State

Others attending: See attached list.

The meeting was called to order shortly after 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Sallee.

Hearings were continued on SB-153 with Craig Grant, KNEA, appearing in opposition to the bill. Mr. Grant told the committee he felt Kansas was overreacting due to problems from other states and the federal level. (Attachment 1)

Mr. Grant noted that the elimination of political action committee contributions would limit their members' rights to join collectively in supporting candidates.

Discussion followed concerning the need for an amendment to SB-153 as party committees should be and are not named in the Senate PACs.

Senator Reilly moved conceptually to include the arms of political parties in the bill. Senator Kerr seconded the motion.

Staff explained that when drawing the bill party committees were not listed along with other types of party committees that could not accept PAC contributions, on page 2, line 41. It was noted that by placing the wording into the bill it would be in place should the political committees become structured to qualify.

Senator Martin made a substitute motion to report SB-153 adversely. Senator Lee seconded the motion.

Following a lengthy discussion concerning both sides of the issue the question was called. The motion failed.

The original motion was discussed and the question was called. The motion passed.

Senator Kerr moved to pass SB-153 favorably as amended. Senator Bond seconded the motion and the motion carried.

SB-325 - Concerning areas to be served by the same voting place.

Senator Lee appeared in support of SB-325 noting a similar bill was passed last year and bogged down in the House.

Ron Thornburgh, Office of the Secretary of State, appeared concerning SB-325 noting the bill provides that all precincts serving fewer than 20 registered voters shall share polling places with an adjoining precinct to protect the voters right to a secret ballot. Each ballot would be deposited in the same ballot box and counted together. (Attachment 2)

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

room 529-S Statehouse, at 1:30 ~~xxx~~ p.m. on March 5, 1991

SB-324 - Concerning presidential preference primary elections.

Ron Thornburgh, Office of the Secretary of State, appeared and presented testimony noting the bill had been proposed in order to cut costs for the Presidential Preference Primary. It was noted Section 1(c) eliminates the need for the county election officers to provide public notice of the election. The two political parties should be allowed to publicize the election as they deem necessary. Secondly, the bill would protect the state from cost overruns. The state has no direct concerning control of conduct of the election, consequently, they have no direct control over costs involved with the election. (Attachment 3)

Discussion noted the possibility of the bill being used as a vehicle to kill the presidential primary.

Senator Lee moved to amend SB-325, lines 30 and 31 by striking "all ballots of the same type" and insert "and the ballots identical". Senator Bond seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Senator Lee moved to pass the bill out favorably as amended. Senator Martin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

GUEST LIST

SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

DATE March 5, 1991

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME AND ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION

Michael Wolff Topeka

CC/KS

Craig Grant Topeka

H-NEA

Abdul Kudd Topeka

Senat. Pres. Office

Jean Sallee Troy

Vivian Middleton Troy

Rebecca Bossemeyer TUPEKA

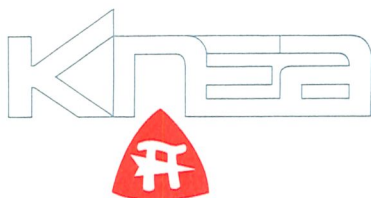
SOS

DAN BRUNETTI GIRARD

Co. CLERK

Ron Thornburg Topeka

SOS



Craig Grant Testimony Before The
Senate Elections Committee
Monday, March 4, 1991

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am Craig Grant and I represent Kansas-NEA. I appreciate this opportunity to visit with the committee about SB 153.

Kansas-NEA opposes SB 153 which would eliminate political action committee contributions to any candidate or a party. As I indicated last week, I believe we are overreacting in Kansas to the horror stories from the federal level. We limit political action committees' contributions presently more than most states do. This "reform", along with other "reform" measures, could easily limit candidates to only rich people or friends of rich people.

I explained to this committee last week that our political action committee, like so many others, is a chance for the "little people" to combine their small contributions in order to compete with the rich people to elect good candidates. Our \$7 contribution would likely not be contributed at all if not through a combined effort. We involve our members in the political process and seek their approval in the decisions made. SB 153 would effectively end that involvement in the process.

Kansas-NEA believes that our 24,000 educator members are not evil people, that the political action committees they form are not evil, and the candidates who agree to take their contributions are not evil. As a result, we oppose SB 153 which would limit their right to join collectively. Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Senate Elections:
March 5, 1991
Attachment 1



Bill Graves
Secretary of State

2nd Floor, State Capitol
Topeka, KS 66612-1594
(913) 296-2236

STATE OF KANSAS

TESTIMONY OF RON THORNBURGH
SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 5, 1991

Senate Bill 325

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of Secretary of State Graves.

I appear today, not as a proponent or as an opponent to Senate Bill 325. I simply appear today to clarify a few questions.

This bill provides that all precincts serving fewer than 20 registered voters shall share polling places with an adjoining precinct to protect the voters right to a secret ballot. Each ballot shall be deposited in the same ballot box and counted together.

This system will work very well in those precincts within the same township or as long as the two precincts are voting for the same officers. However, if any office is different, we can still combine the polling places, but we cannot place the ballots in the same ballot box. If any officer is different, the potential problem of disclosure of a voters secret ballot still exists. The only means of correcting the problem is to consolidate townships, or other governmental districts creating the problem. We by no means are suggesting this as a solution to the problem.

Thank you. I will be happy to stand for questions.

Senate Elections
March 5, 1991
Attachment 2

Bill Graves
Secretary of State



2nd Floor, State Capitol
Topeka, KS 66612-1594
(913) 296-2236

STATE OF KANSAS

TESTIMONY OF RON THORNBURGH
SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 5, 1991

Senate Bill 324

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the opportunity to appear before you today on behalf of Secretary of State Graves.

We have proposed Senate Bill 324 in order to cut costs for the Presidential Preference Primary. Section 1(c) eliminates the need for the county election officers to provide public notice of the election. Because this is strictly a partisan election, the two political parties should be allowed to publicize the election as they deem necessary. This change in procedures will save the state approximately \$53,000.

Our second proposal will protect the state from cost overruns. Because we do not directly conduct the election, we have no direct control over the costs involved with the election. Section 2 provides for a pro rata distribution of payment to the counties should the cost of the primary exceed the \$1.2 million allocation. This appropriation was established through a series of polls of the county officials to determine the cost of conducting an election.

With the passage of Senate Bill 324, the state of Kansas will be protected from any cost over runs in the Presidential Preference Primary.

Thank you. I will be happy to stand for questions.

Senate Elections
March 5, 1991
Attachment 3