

Celler in the 91st Congress, proposing to abolish the electoral college and replace it with the direct popular election of the President and Vice President. Included in H.J. Res. 681 was a provision for a runoff election if no candidate received at least 40 percent of the popular vote. While this joint resolution passed the House on September 18, 1969, by a vote of 338-70, it died in the Senate because of a filibuster by Senators from small States and southern States.

The joint resolution I am introducing today is similar to H.J. Res. 681, in that it calls for the direct election of the President and Vice President and includes a provision for a runoff election. More specifically, in the event that no candidate receives at least 40 percent of the popular vote, a runoff would be held 21 days after the general election between the two candidates with the greatest number of popular votes. This resolution builds upon a proposal I offered with Representative GERALD KLECZKA in 1993 and other resolutions introduced in the current Congress by Representatives RAY LAHOOD and JAMES LEACH.

Every public opinion poll indicates that an overwhelming majority of Americans want to elect their President directly by popular vote. Direct popular election has been endorsed in the past by a large number of civic-minded groups including the American Bar Association, the AFL-CIO, the UAW, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business, and the NAACP.

If we believe that the President represents and speaks for the people of this great country, then we have an obligation to allow the people to have their voices heard. Abraham Lincoln once said, "Public opinion is everything. With it, nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed."

Mr. President, to reiterate, as Congressman LAHOOD and I said in our bipartisan press conference, although this is an issue which apparently seems so rational and so easy to argue, it is one that has run into a lot of debate on the floor of the Senate. I spoke to one of my colleagues from a smaller State and told him what I was doing. He said: I'll oppose you all the way because my tiny State has three electoral votes, and the Presidential candidate has been spending a lot of time in my State and would spend no time there if we had to rely on a popular vote.

But it seems strange to me we rely on a popular vote for virtually every other election in America but not the Presidential election. If we have a disparity between the popular vote for President and the electoral vote for President, if we have someone elected President who does not receive a majority of the votes of the American people, it will create a problem for that administration. It is tough enough to

lead in this great Nation, tough enough for a President to muster popular support for difficult decisions to be made. But if that President does not bring a mandate from the people to the office, his power will be diminished.

I sincerely hope that does not occur. But whether or not, I hope my colleagues will join me supporting this effort to abolish the electoral college and say we trust the people in this country. The arguments made over 200 years ago do not apply today. The people of this country should choose the President as they choose Members of Congress as well as U.S. Senators.

I ask unanimous consent a copy of the legislation be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 56

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years after the date of its submission to the States for ratification:*

"ARTICLE—

"SECTION 1. The President and Vice President shall be elected by the people of the several States and the district constituting the seat of government of the United States.

"SECTION 2. The electors in each State shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of Representatives in Congress from that State, except that the legislature of any State may prescribe less restrictive qualifications with respect to residence and Congress may establish uniform residence and age qualifications. Congress shall establish qualifications for electors in the district constituting the seat of government of the United States.

"SECTION 3. The persons having the greatest number of votes for President and Vice President shall be elected, if such number be at least 40 per centum of the whole number of votes cast for such offices in the general election. If no persons have such number, a runoff election shall be held 21 days after the general election. In the runoff election, the choice of President and Vice President shall be made from the persons who received the two highest numbers of votes for each office in the general election.

"SECTION 4. The times, places, and manner of holding such elections, and entitlement to inclusion on the ballot for the general election, shall be prescribed in each State by the legislature thereof; but Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations. Congress shall prescribe by law the time, place, and manner in which the results of such elections shall be ascertained and declared.

"SECTION 5. Each elector shall cast a single vote jointly applicable to President and Vice President in any such election. Names of candidates shall not be joined unless they shall have consented thereto and no candidate shall consent to his or her name's being joined with that of more than one other person.

"SECTION 6. Congress may by law provide for the case of the death of any candidate for

President or Vice President before the day on which the President-elect or the Vice President-elect has been chosen; and for the case of a tie in any such election.

"SECTION 7. Congress shall have the power to implement and enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

"SECTION 8. This article shall take effect one year after the twenty-first day of January following ratification."

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 2287

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2287, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 159—PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LOTT submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 159

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Wednesday, November 1, 2000, or Thursday, November 2, 2000, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Tuesday, November 14, 2000, or until such time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reconvene pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Wednesday, November 1, 2000, or Thursday, November 2, 2000, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until noon on Monday, November 13, 2000, at 2 p.m., or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reconvene pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.*

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reconvene whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.