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## Congress of the United States House of Representatives Mashington, D.C. 20515

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## FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1965

I introduced a bill on Thursday, April 8, to protect the integrity of a man's vote. While the recent emphasis has been on so-called "Voting Rights", any legislation enacted would be meaningless if votes are canceled by others illegally cast, if voters are illegally registered to vote, or if votes cast are not counted properly.

My bill would apply to Federal elections and make it a Federal offense for anyone to give false information as to his name, address, or length of residence in a particular election district. Under the terms of the bill it would also be a Federal offense for anyone to conspire with another to register falsely or to vote illegally, or to offer or accept money or something of value in exchange for registering or voting.

The bill would also make it a Federal offense for anyone to destroy or alter any ballot or record of voting made by a voting machine or otherwise or to fraudulently count or fail to count any vote in a Federal election.

Penalties for violation would be fines of up to \$10,000, imprisonment up to 5 years, or both.

Certainly, there are many examples of such voting abuses to be found in many parts of the United States. Who can forget the famous incident in Chicago in the 1960 election when in one precinct 82 votes were cast although the voting list showed only twenty-two qualified voters? This legislation would be effective to correct such abuses-to guarantee a man that the vote he casts will be cast in a clean election, will not be diluted by an illegally cast ballot, and will be properly counted and tabulated.