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W. P. MARSHALL  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LT = International  
Letter Telegram

# WESTERN UNION

## TELEGRAM

1965 JUL 6 PM 10 57

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NFC188 WC226

NL PD WASHINGTON DC 6

HON ROBERT DOLE

243

~~50-5~~  
~~voting Reg~~

90-1  
*Civil Rights*

HOUSE OFFICE BLDG WASHDC  
AS THE DEBATE ON THE VOTING RIGHTS BILL COMMENCES, THE 96  
ORGANIZATIONS COOPERATING IN THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL  
RIGHTS URGE YOU TO SUPPORT THE HOUSE JUDICIARY BILL AND TO  
OPPOSE FORD-MCCULLOCH SUBSTITUTE AND OTHER PROPOSALS WHICH  
WILL GREATLY WEAKEN THE BILL. THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SUPPORTS  
AMENDMENT TO ENFRANCHISE SPANISH SPEAKING CITIZENS. PLEASE  
-- REPEAT PLEASE STAY ON FLOOR THIS WEEK, OPPOSE WEAKENING  
AMENDMENTS, AND EXPEDITE PASSAGE OF BILL

ROY WILKINS CHAIRMAN ARNOLD ARONSON SECRETARY.

Statement in Support of H.R. 7316 Intro-  
duced by Representative Dole

Legislation is needed in the form of criminal sanctions to prevent illegalities in elections where Federal officials are candidates. H.R. 7316 would make it a crime to give false information in connection with registering to vote, to pay or accept payment for registering or for voting, or to alter any ballot or voting record, with respect to a Federal election. H.R. 7316 provides a maximum fine of \$10,000 or imprisonment of not more than five years, or both, for violations of its provisions.

The voting rights bills now pending before Congress are aimed primarily at only one kind of abuse--the use of literacy tests and other devices to deprive Negroes of their right to vote. These bills would do little to correct other conditions which also deprive voters of their rights, and those conditions, namely, election frauds, do exist. The Administration voting rights bill and other voting rights bills do nothing to provide federal policing of elections in many cities and States where the big political machines control elections. In some cities charges of vote buying and

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stealing have been made year after year. These charges and complaints often are not investigated under present law.

One example of the dire need for legislation to curb voting frauds in federal elections can be found in Chicago. In a March 19 speech in Chicago, T. P. Sheehan, chairman of the Republican Central Committee of Cook County, made charges of vote buying. He pointed out words in which eggs were passed out to voters, or a half pint of gin, coupons redeemable in food, or \$5 per vote. None of the instances of vote buying will be prosecuted in Chicago or anywhere else under the voting rights bills pending. The right of all people to vote, regardless of race or color, will be of little value if coercion is used to influence the outcome of elections or if the votes are fraudulently counted.

The Congressional Record of April 15, 1965 (p. 7801-7804) contains a report, prepared by the Election Research Council, Inc., dealing with alleged irregularities in last November's elections in the State of Arkansas. This report inserted in the Record by Representative Laird illustrates some of the frauds that occur in many States, for example, applications with doubtful reasons for voting absentee listed, forgery of ballots of persons in nursing homes, voting of persons

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who had been committed to hospitals for the mentally ill, voters casting ballots in their county of residence while continuing to vote absentee in another county where they formerly resided, voting in person in more than one county, for persons voting/former residents of a county who continue to hold poll taxes in a county and are unaware that this is taking place, purchase of poll tax receipts in blocks by politically active persons for individuals who would not have paid the tax to vote, and in several counties more absentee ballots were counted than applications were issued for.

These are just two of the alleged frauds during the 1964 elections. There are probably many more that were perpetrated. Almost every election for members of Congress results in one or more contests for seats, often with charges of irregularities having occurred in some aspect of the election process. In the Senate a permanent standing subcommittee, the Subcommittee on Privileges and Elections of the Committee on Rules and Administration, handles problems of this kind. In the House of Representatives, a Special Committee to Investigate Campaign Expenditures is created every two years to look into matters pertaining to the election of Members of the House.

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Passage of H.R. 7316 might well eliminate some of the fraudulent practices which these committees are required to investigate.

In addition to the fraudulent practices cited in Chicago and Arkansas, the following types of voting abuses have been used in recent years and would be covered by H.R. 7316:

1. Padded registration lists--lists contain names of deceased voters, former residents, or fictitious names for whom votes will be recorded.
2. Repeating--sending persons from precinct to precinct to vote under the names of bona fide or fictitious voters.
3. Altering ballots--election officers may complete an incomplete ballot, may change the vote cast, or may spoil the ballot.
4. Substitution of ballots--discarding of legitimate ballots and substitution of others.
5. False count and false returns--deliberate errors in tabulation and in reporting totals.
6. Altering returns.
7. Tampering with voting machines--jamming is most common.
8. Counting of ballots not marked in accordance with the election law.

The Federal Government has shown a long-standing interest in election procedures and in the prevention of fraudulent

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practices. While the restrictions of H.R. 7316 would apply specifically to the election of Federal officials, they would result in more honest elections for State and local officials as well. Zealous prosecution for vote frauds and imposition of the sentences or fines as prescribed by H.R. 7316 would be a great deterrent to unscrupulous "machine" politicians in local as well as national elections.

H.R. 7316 would prevent ballots from being destroyed, defaced, mutilated, or altered within a year following an election. The Federal Government should have a right to have possession of all the evidence after an election to see whether or not a Federal official was elected according to the laws of the State wherein they are chosen. This bill, without taking away the right of the local government to determine other matters in connection with voting, would permit the Federal Government to require that everything be held intact after an election, and Federal courts would have an opportunity and authority to examine into an election contest, not to ascertain whether it has met Federal standards, but to ascertain whether they were properly elected under the laws of the State where the individual is elected. A problem in this field does exist as was shown by the hearing on July 13, 1961 before the Subcommittee on Privileges and Election of the Senate Committee

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on Rules and Administration on preservation of evidence  
in Federal elections.

Each qualified citizen has the right to vote and  
to have his vote counted honestly; if elections are fraudu-  
lent, a citizen's vote is diluted or nullified to the extent  
to which votes are illegally cast. H.R. 7316 would be a  
deterrent to illegal practices which continue election-year  
after election-year. H.R. 7316 would be a step forward in  
cleaner elections.