I!S. to the NEWS

RELEASEI August 21, 1976

by PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

Box 618, Alton, Illinois 62002
Phone: 618-462-5415

POSTCA).ill REGISTRATION

we now have the first concrete evidence *ot* the kind of legislation th•t Jimmy Carter will push *tor, it* he is elected President. He put his personal influence on the line in. asking the Uouae of Representa tives to **paae a** bill to provide tor postcard registration of voters for Federal elections.

Like ■ost *ot* Carter'• ideas, the postcard registration bill would, *ot* course, cost ■ore i'"'ederal tax dollars, Estimates range up to 1900 million every two **years.** Of **ooune,** it would require a new Federal agency. Of course, we would have to hire more Federal employees. Of course, it **vellid aore** Federal control over atate and local activities.

The postcard registration bill supported by Jimmy Carter would have ordered the U.S. Postal Service to mail registration fol'11ls to every postal address in the United states at leaat onee every two yeara. The voters would then return the po■tcards by 30 days before the election. **1\e actual eoat** would have **been disguised** because the U.S. Postal service would **aailall** 140 million registration fonas with the Federal **franking privilege.** Tbe **volU11e and** frequency ot this **■ailing would have** provided a **eorrYeaient excuse** to **raise** the cost *ot* first-class postage another couple .of cents.

Fortunately, the Hou1e rejected Carterts personal appeal tor this masa-■ailtag **boondoggle. The** House then **paeeed a leas** obnoxious version which require• **merely** that voter postcards be made available at post offices and other Federal buildings. This is a bad plan, too, because it would **permit** pressure groups to gather up the postcards and use them tor intensive registration drives to serve t eir special ·1n•erests.

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postcard registration bill is based on two false assumptions.

First is that the Federal Government can and must solve all social problems immediately, even a sociological phenomenon that up to 34 million Americans do not want to vote.

The second false assumption is that it is a social good to everyone out to vote in every election, even though the individual may be too uninterested or indolent to vote on his own initiative. There is something inherently offensive about the idea that Federal persuaders should propel everyone to vote, whether he wants to or not. Uninterested, uninformed, or lazy citizens should not reluctantly dragged to the polls by the Government and counted equally with the votes of conscientious Americans.

A recent survey of the reactions of county clerks, or our system of government to responsible citizenship voter registration bill this type of comment about postcard registration. "I wish to) many Jobless for voter registration" "Wi ll·r>Wi to;) :'.tany t.Jt,ipor·t.u..11 ll:., 1 ,i t:ut{,.tl. :, t!ft tl!'<nilti drfistic. ly ::t,f'::·\1::1..r::·e t 1tt 0f!1ct_ ,-ncy of o ra cil!-1:(rtt1- ,:'; i.,roc,,s . "' q1: (t -1 ::<t,'!-J:;i.M't.-tfJ; ;;,r.ue,: th 11m e of !iv ow- ten pt10,tl¾t 'l.f I wanted to. , nnnde:r t.nat blll, 1 ,1ould V(.)te 1:t several tates. ' ""•liy d:tU::$t!i1t t!m Pe:1t1;·e1 i<v\'• li"rnrt<br;.t It•qiri itr ii;nr;t4trii! ou,g t;,f I(ll•t l 1n uH1'tt1

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Representative Norma decided to filibuster in order to bring it to public attention. She spoke continuously for three and a half days, eight to nine hours a day, thereby setting the record for filibusters by women in state legislatures.

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