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constitution. The 1996 Constitutional Commission's view was that this language is constitutionally suspect under the First and Fourteenth Amendments. The ballot language will now read: "A constitutional amendment to clarify English language requirements in schools," and I believe that this new language is simpler and it is a clearer resolution than what was previously introduced. There is a committee amendment which I support, and that merely changes when the amendment will be voted on and also does some clarifying in line 11. So thank you, Mr. President, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Raikes, you are recognized to open on the committee amendments to LR 1CA.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members. The committee amendment has two parts to it. The first is to make the election, rather than a special election on May 14th, the general election in November of 2002. The reason for that I think is to offer or to allow more people to participate in the decision. The second amendment has to do with the wording. The bill originally had the sentence added: The public schools shall teach the English...excuse me, "The public schools shall teach the English language." Instead of that sentence, the committee amendment would read as follows: "All official proceedings, records and publications shall be in such language, and such language shall be used in the public schools." It was the committee's belief that this more clearly...this language more clearly expressed the intention of the amendment, so that's...that's what we settled upon. I would...I would urge the adoption of the committee amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Further debate on the committee amendments to LR 1CA? Senator Schimek, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I rise just to ask the Chairman of the Education Committee a quick question or two, if I might.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Raikes, would you yield to a