

lobbyist point of view, and as a result of that, we either pass laws that people don't want, or the alternative, we fail to provide laws that people do want. And so the initiative or referendum process is a way of the people themselves putting on our books law that they think is appropriate or removing from our books laws they don't think are appropriate and to me we need to have a liberal initiative and referendum process and any untoward constraints on that process I think...I think undercut the importance of our constitutional assurances to the people that the initiative is the first power reserved to the people and the referendum is the second power reserved. It is for that reason that I offer this amendment. Now Senator Hefner opposes this amendment as well he should because the amendment effectively destroys the provisions of his own bill to narrow the initiative and referendum power and literally broadens our existing law to make it somewhat easier for people to circulate petitions. Let me give you an example. You know a lot of folk in Douglas County have wanted to remove the sales tax on food for a long period of time but measures to do that never get through the Legislature. Now if I became so impassioned with that desire that I wanted to initiate a law to remove the sales tax on food, frankly, I would want to be able to go down to Sarpy County and get people to sign my petition or go to Washington County and get people to sign my petition. I wouldn't want just personally to be confined to Douglas County to get signers of my petition. But to do that, to be able to move from county to county, I have got to post a \$500 bond. I don't think that is a protection. I don't think that is necessary. I think I ought to be able to go into any county I want to go and circulate my petitions. It is for that reason that I am offering this amendment. I would ask you to support the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: We have fifteen minutes left on the bill. Senator Chambers, did you want to talk on the amendment? All right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I sat on the Government Committee when this bill came before us and I agree with Senator Johnson's amendment. What Senator Hefner failed to tell you while the bill was being discussed by him in his opening is that this bill was not brought to us by a grassroots organization of citizens. It was brought by a business group who did not like the petition drives to get bottle bills enacted into law because Legislatures refused to do so. As a matter of fact, as it came out in the testimony when I was talking to Mr. Walt Radcliffe, who is the lobbyist on this bill,