

petition, but if they do, it just makes them jump through a bunch of hurdles, makes it more complicated, and I just like to see things simple, and I don't think we need the bill. That is all I have to say.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schrock. I will now recognize Senator Schmit, followed by Senators Hall and Labeledz. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, the right of the people to petition their government is guaranteed by the Constitution, and it is not unusual that legislators, because we frequently do not choose to do those things that are responsible as legislators, that it is not unusual that we find ourselves somewhat beleaguered and we feel threatened by the initiative process. The facts are that we had a number of petitions on the ballot last fall that would not have been there except for the fact that this Legislature doesn't really have the courage to address some of those controversial issues legislatively. And so, as a result, they go to the people. The attempt to require a minimum wage to be paid to petition circulators I think is just one more attempt to circumvent the petition process. We talk about people having a lot of money. That is true that some people may have a lot of money and choose to put it into the process. On the other hand, there are those who do not have a lot of money who may want the process to work, as Senator Schrock has indicated, without the handicap of having to pay a minimum wage. To require the payment of minimum wage for a petition circulator is almost the same thing as if you were to require minimum wages for newspaper delivery boys or for paper carriers. I think that would be viewed with great alarm from most areas if we were to ever suggest that. I think we know this, if, in fact, we were to pass this bill, I will guarantee you that it will go to court and I will guarantee you, as much as I can without being an attorney, that the court will throw it out. It is just that simple. It doesn't make any sense to do it because the people have a right to petition. The court has held they have a right to pay the petition circulators, and you can call it a bounty system, if you wish. It is also a system of productivity. It is a system which is used in business frequently, and it has been said that we frequently regulate the process by which certain individuals are paid, and I might add that sometimes we do so not only to the detriment of the people of the state but to the individual worker. I think it is very, very evident that one of these days the people are going to get