

disgusted with this Legislature and frequently, because of lack of information, we have seen initiative procedures in other states that have put a limitation on legislative terms, terms of service, many other activities of legislators. And I think that the more that we interfere with the legislative...the rights of the people to involve the initiative process, the more we are going to see the people react against the Legislature and justifiably so. I don't think that there is anything wrong with paying petition circulators. I think that there are many ways by which petition circulators can get paid. We have been told it ought to be a grass roots movement. Ladies and gentlemen, I have been around for 61 years. There are no such things as a grass root movement. It requires...it is like an explosion, it requires air, fire, and gasoline or gunpowder. You have to have certain ingredients and, if you don't have those ingredients, there is no grass roots. Grass roots are usually instigated by one of us politicians who wants to carry a cause, and so we set the system in motion. Frequently it is instigated by the press, the Fourth Estate, and I think that we have to recognize that those motives, of course, are all for the very best, but from time to time may not, in fact, be in the best interest of the people.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I believe the bill is unnecessary. I believe that it is punitive. I believe it is designed to frustrate the initiative process. The only thing that this Legislature should look at insofar as the initiative process is concerned is how do you make it easier for the people to address an issue if they are frustrated with those of us who are legislators and feel that we have not done our job. I oppose the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. I will now recognize Senator Hall, followed by Senators Labeledz, Nelson, Bernard-Stevens, and Baack. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam Chair. The bill that Senator Withem alluded to that dealt with the, basically, striking the prohibition with regard to payment of circulators is a bill that I introduced. I had a couple pieces of legislation in that dealt with the petition process a few years back. After the court case came down, after the...well, I guess the first case was out in California, dealing with this issue of freedom of speech as it extended to the payment of circulators, we, in