

ability...or the will of the body to really look at some of the issues. Didn't want to comment on the bill particularly...the amendment by Senator Peterson but I will make a comment at this particular point. The body had better up it's...up it's intellectual capacity when we start talking about these bills that are up and coming. What Senator Peterson didn't mention on his amendment that if the body would have voted, which the majority of the body was just simply going along or not voting because they felt there might be a problem, if Senator Peterson would have checked with the Madison County Clerk, he would have known that the Madison County Clerk is...the one fear that she had is that there would be a special primary election. Why did the Clerk of Madison County have this fear? That would be Nancy Scherer of Madison County. Because they don't have the money and she calculated it out a special primary election would have cost over \$9,000, they have already gone through the budget hearing, she has no money for a primary election. She would have had to go get a special meeting of the board to try to find another ten, nine and ten thousand dollars, which is not there. That's number one. They don't have the capacity moneywise to do it and that was the testimony that Allen Beermann gave to the Government Committee that it would be very cost prohibitive, number one. Number two, people were talking among the body, they were saying, hey, that's no problem, we want to have a special primary because that will eliminate having 14 or more candidates that you might have on a special...on a petition process. Let's start thinking just a little bit, members of the body. If you have a petition process, that is true, you may have unlimited number of people on the ballot but you're also going to have the election in the general election where you're going to have the highest turnout. If you have in a regular election where people can just file on a special primary, anybody can file. There's no limit to the people that you have on the ballot. You could still have 14 on there and in primary special elections the percentage turnout is much lower. Your probable winner might even win with 18 percent of the vote. So if we're going to start talking about amendments and we're going to start talking about elections and the best political process to keep the election process as clean and as good as possible, we had better start thinking on these bills that are before us. We had better start thinking on these amendments because these things are darn serious and this body is not taking it very serious at all. Fortunately, most of the body had a ho-hum and didn't even want to vote one way or another. This time that was helpful. Thank you.