

there's any questions, why I'd try to answer them.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. The speaking order is Senator Bernard-Stevens, followed by Senators Schimek, Peterson, Schellpeper, Conway, and Hefner. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. In the discussion in the final vote that we have before us on the redistricting issue, I think there are two things that we need to keep in mind as we vote on these issues. If we're going to, if the body, by 33 votes, does adopt LE 7, we also, at the same time, need to advance and pass, with the emergency clause, LB 9. And at some point we need to make sure that the petition process that we have in LB 9 is in the form that we need to have it, because if it's not, then we're going to have some difficulty passing a change that will call for a petition process, if that process, by itself the way it's written now, is...if there are some doubts. And I want to just take some time and talk about that petition process, raise some questions, and at least have the body begin to mull over, and hopefully we'll have some discussions as to if we are in a good position on LB 9 at this point. Quite honestly, I have some doubts whether or not LB 9, in its present form, is not...I feel it may cause us even more problems than what we may experience on...no matter what we pass on the redistricting plan, whether it be LB 7, or something else, or nothing at all at this point. I want to, if the body has taken the chance to actually read the blue copy, which would be the second copy of LB 9 on Final Reading, I want to bring to your attention a couple of things and go through the process that we have accepted. On page 8, actually on page 8, the new section...new language starting on page 9, what the Legislature did, by the enacting of the amendments we had, was created a situation where a vacancy occurs. And again, I hope the body is somewhat paying attention because there are some things that have to be thought of very carefully on LB 9. Page 8 and 9 we have a vacancy that now has been created in the case of LB 7, District 17. Since a vacancy now has been created, then the rest of the bill kicks in which says that if there is a vacancy created between when a Legislature changes a district boundary between a primary and a general election, then the petition process kicks in, people have to go get their signatures, 644 or 45 signatures and be on the ballot. I remind the body that last week we had a decision that the body very strongly made that stated that everyone