

some cases, we may or may not have agreed with. But just in terms of the property rights, and that has been bounced around ever since the day that the court decision came down and a few of us started talking. What value is there in the property right of a certificate of nomination holder? Some of you may remember that a couple of years ago I was involved in another court case filed as a court case, filed as a challenge, ultimately turned into a court case relative to being seated as a senator. Now you think about how the courts might react relative to a certificate of nomination for the Legislature specifically. Even when a person has gone through the general election and we have brought an individual down to the point where they are the majority vote-getter, the challenge of recounts and whatever has come to pass. None of us are still in our seats and declared and having any rights of officeholder until this body, as a body, seats that senator. It is within the purview of this body, even if somebody is a majority vote-getter in an election, to accept or reject that district's constituents choice at this body. And I learned that, you might say, the hard way, but if you would look at the Constitution in Section 7 or, excuse me, Section 10 dealing with the Legislature, it says very emphatically, and this has been followed up by the Supreme Court when my seat was challenged, when the Legislature says we are not touching that, we are not touching that on the basis that in the Constitution it says the Legislature shall determine the rules of the proceedings and be the judge of the election...be the judge of the election, returns, and qualifications of its members, shall choose its own officers, including its Speaker, and so forth. And the Supreme Court of this state, the very same seated seven that we now are exposed to, two years ago made a ruling that they wanted nothing to do about the seating of senators, the determination of qualifications, who was elected and the like, because that, within the Constitution, is a purview of the Legislature. I question that if this body makes a change in that status relative to the redistricting, and by virtue of that redistricting we establish that two candidates who hold certificates of election, that that is something that is a greater right than what the Supreme Court has already ruled in the fact of redistricting with respect to Madison County. I think that whoever defends this, that is not a problem because there is always a question of who defends us. But at any rate, in that defense, I would think that some individual would point out to the fact that the Legislature, within its prerogative with choosing its members, and we talk about the sacred right of