

policy in the best interest of the State of Nebraska and I was one who was a candidate in 1978 when the bottle bill was put on the ballot and I thought that was a good idea and in 1982 I supported a constitutional amendment to prohibit corporate farming. I thought that was a good idea, but there are other ideas out there I didn't like as well but I felt that this was a chance for the public to express themselves. The problem that I have over a period of time in examining the petition process is that what it does is it allows individuals to isolate popular issues and popular positions and not deal with the consequences of those positions or those issues, that you end up with a situation...

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Wesely, let me interrupt. (Gavel.) Would the senators please keep your conversation down so the speaker may be heard.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, I appreciate that, Madam President. I've come to this position reluctantly because I know politically it's an unpopular position to say that petition drives are something that are not necessarily serving the best interest of the public in every instance and that's exactly the position though I think we've come to. We've got a petition drive in the City of Lincoln to put a lid on the schools. We say we don't want high property taxes, boy, that's a popular position. We don't want high taxes, that's a popular position and so we put tax limitations whether they be at the city level or the school level or the state level and we put those out there and people sign petitions because this will put a limit on your taxes and then they vote for those proposals because they'll put a limit on your taxes and that's a popular position and that's the way petitions can be structured. But the other side of the coin is never presented. They never talk about what cuts are going to have to be made, what budget changes are going to have to be made, what program is going to be lost with services lost. They leave that for us in the Legislature. They leave that for the school board. They leave that for the city council. They leave that for the elected representatives at whatever level of government that they're concerned about in which they are attacking through a petition drive and that's the flaw with the petition process. It doesn't give us the big picture. It gives us a piece of the picture. It gives us one part of the puzzle but doesn't give us the rest of it. That one part that we see looks great, sounds great, I'm with you and that's why we see that a lot of these petition drives are able