

these signatures. So this would provide a standardization. Now I have to tell you candidly that some of the people who circulate petitions don't like this provision because if every petition looks alike then when they're out circulating maybe two different petitions at a time, they say that they'll have trouble keeping those petitions separate, and I guess the response to that is you color code those petitions in some way, draw a big green line across the bottom or whatever so that you know that this petition is different from that petition. I don't think many people go out and circulate two different petitions for two different issues at the same time, but it does happen and they will need to keep them separate but the uniformity that will be gained as a result of this I think far outweighs that in the balance. Section 6 of the bill talks about, again, a circulator being registered prior to circulating and that the signature and address are presumed accurate if they match the registration records. And again, if they don't match, the signature is presumed invalid. And then Section 7 says the Secretary of State shall print one informational pamphlet on all initiative and referendum measures which are to be on the ballot. These pamphlets are for distribution to county clerks and election commissioners who shall disseminate them to the public. And we know that out of the 26 states that have petition, that have initiative and referendum, eight of them have this pamphlet provision. A lot of them mail out the pamphlet to every registered voter. It was felt that that would be awfully expensive and that a better way to do it would be to put these pamphlets in the hands of election commissioners and county clerks so that they could distribute them to libraries, governmental offices and so forth. And finally, Section 8 says that the Secretary of State shall hold one public hearing in each congressional district for the purpose of allowing public comment on the measure. This was felt to be very important to the education of the public by having these public hearings. Now I have to tell you candidly that there...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...was discussion of having a prehearing before the petition is even circulated. We discussed that quite a bit in committee and there would be some positive reasons for doing that, but the circulators, those who served on the task force that came up with this proposal thought that that might hurt their cause and it might prejudice something before they had ever really gotten the ballot issue put on the.. registered