

without exception I can support what he is trying to do here. I guess the only question that I would have remaining would be the ones that Senator Bernard-Stevens just raised and there have been petition processes, or petition drives in recent years that have certainly included a number of things in them and that would be the only place where we might run into trouble, Senator Beutler, but by and large 250 words is...I mean how many of us has had to write 50 word essays and that takes up about a page. We can...I think we can live with the 250. Now it may come back and at some time in the future, we may have to change that, but I think by and large this amendment is good. I guess, you know, when I...when we talked about hearings in all the congressional districts, I just made the assumption that you would have public notice. I mean to me that's just a given, but it's probably good to say that in statute and to also maybe now the time frame in which those hearings can be held, if we don't adopt this amendment, then the hearings could be held any time from July up to the election and probably we're going to have people's attention focused more after Labor Day than we would before. So I think these are good amendments. I would encourage their adoption.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. I rise very briefly, in general I agree with the tenor of Senator Beutler's amendment and I have only one suggestion that I will pursue with him on Select File because I think that would be more appropriate. The suggestion is that there is probably not a newspaper of general circulation in the 3rd Congressional District and I think we only have to look around to our favorite hometown newspapers, the large papers in circulation in the 3rd District, the Kearney Hub for example, the North Platte Telegraph, the Scottsbluff Star-Herald, et cetera. I think it might be hard to determine whether any of those papers is of general circulation in the 3rd Congressional District. You might make an argument I suppose that one the Lincoln papers is of general circulation in the 3rd District, but I doubt that that would really quite carry the day. You might try to make an argument that the Omaha World-Herald is of general circulation in the 3rd Congressional District, but again, I don't think that carries the day because there are vast numbers of people in the 3rd Congressional District that do not receive the Omaha World-Herald. I think you'd have to be very careful about your