

of the public, of the general public, than you and I and I think oftentimes, especially now that we have paid circulators, the monied interests will be able very easily to get upon the initiative ballot their propositions. And those propositions are not necessarily going to be good for the general public even in the event of volunteer groups. They, too, may not be generally representative of the public and they, too, may draw propositions that in a philosophic sense are very narrow, and so I think it is a benefit to the public generally. What argument can be made to the public generally why they should not have the opportunity in situations to choose between two alternative propositions, that submitted by the initiators, and in the event that the Legislative Council thinks it an inappropriate initiative as far as the common good is concerned, then a second proposition from the Legislature? Sometimes we think this process has to be hurried up, that it all has to be done in one period of time, but I ask you to think about how quickly we should be amending our Constitution and how careful we should be in amending our Constitution? At the federal level the procedures are set up so that we necessarily take great care and the constitutional amendments are few and far between. But the problem at the state level is that it's very, very easy to amend our Constitution and we do it all the time, and sometimes our Constitution gets cluttered with an enormous amount of detail and language that is probably inappropriate. But I suggest to you that in some context it's going to be very important for us to have that alternative. For example, it may well be, and you have seen from time to time property tax propositions coming in by initiative that may be ill-balanced between urban and rural which may be destructive in terms of education or other institutions which in a sense are not well balanced, but the danger is, the danger is that a public who wants property tax relief may be willing to vote for a proposition that is skewed one way or another and not the most thoughtful. And in that situation I think it would be good for the public and good all around if the Legislature had the opportunity to say this is not balanced, this is what we think is more balanced and better for the common good and we would like to propose this to you as an alternative to the initiative that has been proposed to you. This law applies only to initiatives affecting the Constitution. It doesn't apply to statutory initiatives. Okay? The statutory ones we can deal with in a short period of time here in the Legislature if it turns out that they were bad ideas, but constitutional amendments are more difficult to deal with and it's more difficult to go back into the Constitution and change