

by way of our argument and our votes for that of people who sent us here, if we think that their position is unwise. But I don't see any place where we were given the power to override the will of the people by postponing a vote on a proposition that they had received enough signatures to have placed before the people for voting, nor where we have the right to offer a substitute proposal. If we hurry up and pass an alternative in the ordinary way and get it on the primary ballot before the other one gets on the general election ballot, that's an entirely different matter. But the way that Senator Beutler has framed the issue I'm unable to support it, although intellectually and emotionally I am in support of what his amendment suggests.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, former Madam Attorney General, and members of the body. I'd also like to comment on Senator Beutler's amendment. And I state off in the beginning that I will be opposing the amendment but not that I oppose it necessarily in concept. I've never...Senator Beutler, I agree with...I've agreed with your bill that you had. We didn't have enough votes to get it out of committee, as you know, and so the committee took the next...the next action and killed the bill, I believe. But the concept of having an idea put forward to the people by the people on a ballot issue, and then the concept of having another group of people say, obviously this is something that's going to be on the ballot, the people want this very much, is there something that we could do that would be as good, maybe even better and be able to have more than one idea out there? It kind of boggles my mind as to why people would be against that, because the more ideas you have out there, the more choice you have, the more freedom you have, the more democratic it actually is. For a body just to sit there and say, this is the way it's going to be, we have this one idea to choose from and we don't want any other ideas, we don't want another group to sit back and think about it and propose something else, it's kind of interesting to me. Senator Chambers, you talked about the people and your "uncomfort" with them. It spawned kind of a memory, I was reading about the Constitution, not too long ago, the convention, and the interesting thing about the Constitutional Convention, that we wrote this basic thing that we've got at the federal level and the states copied, to a great degree, is it was all done in secret. It was all done in secret. And, Senator Chambers, you