

guarantee, I believe, to provide a guarantee to the constitution of our state that whatever happens with the amendment, whatever the Supreme Court decision is, that they couldn't wipe out the power of initiative and referendum from our constitution, it's just as simple as that. And I would ask for your support for that amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Senator Dierks, what's the purpose of the amendment? I mean I understand the way it reads, but how could the court, in effect, do away with the initiative and petition process?

SENATOR DIERKS: Well,...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: ...to tell you the truth, I'm not sure how they could, but then I'm not sure about a lot of things that happen over there, and I just want to make sure...

SENATOR HALL: Well, neither am I, for one. But I was just...I'm just curious, I don't know what effect the amendment would have. Could you read it again, since I was...I couldn't...I was cleaning off my desk in my biweekly effort to clear up my area, but...

SENATOR DIERKS: Your cleanliness is surpassed only by your intelligence, Senator.

SENATOR HALL: Right. (Laughter.) That says a lot.

SENATOR DIERKS: Passage...passage of this amendment shall not eliminate the powers of initiative and referendum from this constitution.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you. I...Mr. Speaker, members, I just don't know what the amendment adds to the proposal. I guess I'll listen to what others have to say, but I don't necessarily see where it...if the argument is that they would rule the provisions in LR 6 to be unconstitutional, it would be in its entirety, depending whether or not amendments that had been offered yesterday that were a few votes short, at least two of them that I can think of, if they were offered again, possibly