

signatures than was the case when the provisions that we're talking about now were put into the constitution. And when I say provisions we're talking about now I mean even those that the Supreme Court recently made a statement about. I want to see the threshold raised. I want more signatures required. I think what Senator Wesely is hitting on, in terms of a time frame within which these signatures must be collected, is something that merits discussion and serious consideration. There might be debate as to whether six months is too short a period, but certainly an indefinite period is too long. We are talking about a document whose purpose is to protect all of us against those whims, those fads, those spur of the moment craziness's that seize the populace or a special interest group which can purchase signatures and change the constitution. Once they put something in the constitution it is there. And those who are so quick to say, well we owe something to these people circulating the petitions, so let's make it easier for them to change the constitution, will be the very ones...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...moaning and groaning about the silliness and the craziness that gets into the constitution. If something is put into the Nebraska Constitution which does not violate the federal constitution, which does not violate a federal law, then Nebraskans are doomed, Nebraskans are doomed because the federal courts will defer to the ruling by the state's highest court. And how can they say something in the constitution is unconstitutional if it does not violate a federal law or the federal Constitution? There are provisions right now in Nebraska's Constitution which say any other provision of this constitution notwithstanding, which means you can put something in the constitution that conflicts with something already there and it will override that with which...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...it conflicts.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard...excuse me, I understand there's an amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to amend Senator Wesely's amendment by striking "six months" and inserting "one year".