

the courts because the legislators reflect the racism and bigotry of their constituencies. That is why there must be checks and balances even in the system of government, but never, never should the people at large be placed on the same footing as the Legislature, although when you have an initiative and referendum provision in the constitution that is exactly what happens, the people are viewed as a legislature. Senator Witek mentioned that the Legislature has access to a bill drafting office. The Legislature has the opportunity to debate specifically their propositions that are offered to be made parts of the constitution. That never happens when the public brings something, and the public can mean a very few, well-heeled individuals out east who want to put term limits into the Nebraska Constitution and they hire people and purchase signatures. They paid their circulators so much for each signature that they get. Now, Senator Witek, if I could prove that you sold your vote, or you could prove that I sold my vote, then we'd be guilty of a crime.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: These outfits can pay people for signatures. That shows that the standard is not the same and the constitution should be approached as much as possible by people with clean hands. And there is a much better opportunity to do it in the Legislature, where we at least have lavatories and soap and water, whether we're going to use them or not in all cases, as I think we should, the opportunity is there. And I would rather see the constitution dealt with only by the Legislature rather than any initiative process. But if you're going to have it, it should be as difficult as possible.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, I would like to speak against both the Wesely amendment and also the Bernard-Stevens amendment because I think that it goes in the wrong direction and perhaps in a little different way than some have been thinking about it, and I think that it has a killing side effect. And let me tell you what I mean. These amendments limit the period of time in which signatures can be collected, right? The next question becomes if you're going to limit it, do you want to limit it to that period of time that's closest to the election, or do you want to limit it to some other period of time, far away from the election? I think that