

speak.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, I would cede five seconds of my time to Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All I want to say is that there was a point during which that center part of the balcony was just for lobbyists, but because of some humble efforts I put forth, it has been opened to the public and I think it's appropriate that our youngsters would be the first ones to fill that middle part of the balcony.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Chambers, I don't understand how you can be so right on that issue and so wrong on the general attitude towards initiative. In any event, I just did want to respond quickly to Senator Chambers assertion that the public is not to be trusted on these initiatives and referendums. Again, I would stand by my earlier statement that by and large the reaction of the public has been very intelligent in the end. He did identify problems with the process though and there are two of them in my opinion that we need to address. One is assisting the drafters of petitions in getting their petitions in technically correct form and Senator Schimek and the Government Committee, they are addressing that in 337. The public is going to get assistance in that respect and we're going to find that, I think, the process is much better because their petitions will be technically correct and we should have been providing that assistance a long time ago. The second thing though, technical amendments will not correct all the problems. From time to time the public is forced to vote on propositions that are probably not like the public would like to see them either because philosophically they're too narrowly drafted. But the public is between a rock and a hard place. They either vote for something they don't quite like or stay with the status quo which they may like less and I think, and I want to argue once again that part of the solution to that process is to allow the Legislature to review narrowly drafted philosophic, propositions narrowly drafted in a philosophic sense and if the Legislature so chooses to present to the public an alternative to that narrow point of view, that would help a lot towards solving that particular problem. And I think between the technical problems and between the narrow philosophic problems, if we could present to the public better propositions and alternative propositions, that a