

matter of them trying, of their trying to interpret what the court decisions might be in the particular cases they were trying to examine. They were highly frustrated by this, highly frustrated by the fact that there didn't always seem to be opinions issued which were issued to all and so they are the ones who asked that we have it put into this particular bill. I would also like to remind you, and I don't know if the Attorney General's Office read the floor debate or not, but we talked about the fraud situation, we talked about the fact that we needed to make this more uniform, and if you go back to some of these other court decisions, you'll see that the court has said that whatever laws we pass must also be fair and intelligent and impartial and I would say to you that it's far more fair and intelligent and impartial to have a uniform system of verification across the state. But on the first round of debate, remember Senator Moore had sent out, or Secretary of State Moore had sent a letter out saying that the petition verification process, a very trying task for county clerks and election commissioners, is a time consuming process that requires a clerk to make judgment calls about the validity of a particular signature. The courts in the past have added to this burden by applying a substantial compliance doctrine that treats signatures as valid...

SENATOR LINDSAY: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...even though they may not meet the strict letter of the law. The practical result is that clerks try to predict what a court would rule valid. He goes on to say that this creates 93 different standards as to what valid signatures are and that he is comfortable with a uniformity, with the bill as it is because of the uniformity that it does bring to the process. I would ask you to vote against the Bromm amendment. I would like to be able to talk with Senator Bromm off the floor and maybe some language could be agreed upon which would perhaps at least deal with the invalidity question. I do think it would be a bad policy decision to take this out of the Secretary of State's hands. Thank you.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President, and, Senator Schimek, I appreciate your comments and I...what I'm doing right now and what I have done is to prepare a proposed amendment to substitute for the one that we're discussing and if your