

get groceries at the grocery...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...store, they've got all kinds of things going on in their life. All we're trying to do is make it easier for them to do that balloting in an election where there's not a great draw to the poll. They haven't been watching television and hearing 20 ads a minute. It's a different kind of an election. I think Patty Hanson has the best quote of all, at the committee hearing, when she said that what we do now is not measure the will of the people but measure the fortitude of the people. And sometimes in these special elections that's just what it is, because there's just not a big turnout at these special elections. We need to do everything we can to see that the will of the people is measured. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. A couple points that are a little bit different that have been...that I'd like to point out, if we can. It would be interesting, would it not, if we in this body could vote by proxy in our office. I mean on any issue we could vote by proxy, that means we have a piece of paper, official form made up by the Clerk, and we could be in our office listening to debate, sign our ballot on how we're going to vote and then have a Page, or our staff, or whatever bring it up and it could be counted, it would count as long as it made it in before the official vote was taken. And you think about that. Do you think any lobbyist might come down to our office? Do you think there might be any pressure right there when we have...when they know we can vote right there on a piece of paper and get it up, would there? How would that change the dynamics of the Legislature? Voting for chairmanships, if we could do that by proxy in our office wouldn't that be kind of interesting on how that might work? Especially if you could do it ten days prior, send your proxy in. And whether I was running, or someone else was running and they go to your office and they start talking and you have the capability of voting right there, what changes in dynamics may that do? I don't know, but it's interesting because that's the concept that we're really talking about here. Senator Cudaback talked also about absentee ballots. And Senator Cudaback was right, I mean we have a way of voting by