

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 5, 1999

LR 18

change the law. Senator Smith, you asked how you would explain it to the people in your district. Well, a lot of those people didn't like the corporate farming amendment. I think most all of them did not in that particular district. Maybe it should be suggested to them that if it were harder to change the constitution we wouldn't have all these little nitty-gritty details about corporate farming in our constitution and it would be easier for us to operate and to deal with intricate matters if our constitution wasn't constantly seen as the place where all these little details are going. And it is the inclusion of these little details into our constitution that causes us the concern about the time that it takes to change the constitution. And so perhaps maybe we need to start...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...moving it back the other way a little bit, with the permission of the people, they have to vote for it, so that our Nebraska Constitution is thought of more carefully and with a little more reverence, such as is the federal constitution. So the last thing that I wanted to mention, and perhaps I'll stop right here, because I think there is one more really important concept that's contained in this initiative, and I would like to discuss that with you because nobody's mentioned it.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you. Senator Jones, please.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President and members of the body, right now I've kind of got mixed feelings on this. I just don't know for sure what to do because I think if we had that in place the equal protection clause might not a got in our constitution, I don't know, because I think a lot of people have looked at that afterwards and wondered, well, how in the world did that get in there, and they didn't realize what they was voting for. But I wish that we could go back to the 10 percent of the gubernatorial to get a number of signatures, because that was 58,000, and when you go to the registered, 10 percent of the registered voters, well, then that's 108,000, and that's just about taking away the privilege of our people out there of getting anything on the ballot simply because they can't get 108,000 without paid petition carriers with only 1.6 million