

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

May 5, 1999

LR 18

something and they have; I get angry, I blame the court, but I know full well that the constitution puts limits on legislatures, it puts limits on people who pass taxes and impose taxes. And that constitutional change is so fundamental to all of us, because it protects representative democracy. But once you turn this system over to those who have the money, you give up a piece of that. Who's going to defend representative democracy, if you don't do it? There are enemies of this Legislature, they don't like the things that you do because, you know, facts, everything is so clear to the people from the outside, it's easy to do, why don't you just go do the right thing. Well, the right thing is really hard to do sometimes. The right thing is hard to figure out what to do. But you don't have to think when you have a 30-second commercial. You don't have to think when somebody tells you how to think in an impressionable manner. And when there is a short period of time, you're even more vulnerable, and when you've got people running for office who are sinking money in there, we've all run for office, every one of us, what's the best use of your money? Short, precise message, the same message time, after time, after time. Now really, do you think any of us talked about issues in great depth or detail? You do that when you're elected and when you serve. Campaigns are about who do you trust. And those campaigns become so superficial that the danger...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...of our constitution being changed in the future is really, really at risk. And it's not a good defense to say, well, we beat them the last time. That's not a very good defense. You know, those 15 debates that I experienced this last time around, that would have not been a very good defense--well, we won before. And I just want to make sure that the system, the system that we are tempted to change as a Legislature, and that is attempted to be changed by the initiative process, is done with some more consideration and slowed down so that we don't do any further damage to our constitution. There are over 28,000 words in our constitution, that's a tremendous amount. And the only way for us to continue this discussion is to move the bill to Select File, and that's what I hope that you do.