

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

May 12, 1999

LB 729

placed on the ballot. The constitution as written says, in effect, let the people be fools if they choose to be fools. If they want to get the advice of a mule skinner on how to write a petition to be submitted for placement on the ballot, then let them do it." And on and on and on in that vein. And I, you know, I just want to make sure that people understand why you are against LB 729. In essence, Senator Dierks and I...Senator Dierks is here, I see him. I think this bill would help the very people that you represent, because it would mean that they wouldn't have to expend thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars and volunteer hours in getting signatures if indeed a particular petition is deemed unconstitutional. If the body doesn't think that is a good goal, then I accept that. I will...I go along with that, and whatever you decide. But I really believe, Senator Dierks, that this time that you should take a second look at this, because I do believe that it is the volunteers and the people who are out gathering signatures that this particular bill will help. I don't want to prolong the debate, I just want to remind the body that there are really three things about the Quandahl amendment that perhaps don't accomplish what maybe you would like to accomplish. First of all, the amendment doesn't address the separation of powers issue, based on General File, it would still be there. It adds ten days to the process, and the Secretary of State already issues advisory opinions on election issues, so the Quandahl amendment would really change the process. Again, I hope that you vote against the amendment, but I don't believe that it is a critical matter as far as this bill is concerned. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Quandahl, to close on your amendment, AM1446, to LB 729.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. And thank you for the discussion on this. I guess in closing I would say that it looks like the Attorney General and Senator Chambers and Senator Schimek and myself all agree on one thing, and that is if you'd turn to page 4 of the Attorney General's Opinion, down at the bottom, a footnote, the Attorney General wrote in his response to me, "We understand that you have proposed an amendment to LB 729 which would require the Secretary to transmit an initiative or referendum to this office for a determination as to whether it should be accepted for filing