

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

May 24, 1999

LR 18

better debaters in this Legislature have, I would echo what Senator Bromm said. I would ask you to remember that you're dealing with a very precious part of our constitution and how it affects our citizens. What we're trying to do, I think, with LR 18CA is take care of problems that we have as legislators and to kind of do away with some of the problems that our citizens have, and take away some of their rights...I'm not going to say freedoms, but they have a right, I believe, to the initiative and referendum process, and I don't think we ought to mess with it. We messed with it enough already. And personally, as Senator Bromm stated, LR 413 and LR 3...LR 413 and LR 414, I believe it was...they weren't LR's, they were constitutional changes. But anyway, I have...I worried about them, too, and I know you all did, because you saw the amount of dollars that were being poured into that. But the citizens came through, they didn't support that stuff. They could see through the money that was spent on that kind of nonsense. And for us to put more road blocks in their way, such as we did with the amendment we adopted of Senator Beutler's that takes away less time for those people to gather their signatures, they never have enough time to gather signatures, especially those that are from the grassroots level, that don't have big funding behind them. If we're doing this to stop the LB 413's and LB 414's, we're missing the boat, because our citizens were able to stop that themselves. But if we're putting more road blocks in the way of our citizens doing their own grassroots approach to the...to legislation, which is part of George Norris' plan, then this bill and that amendment we just adopted do not help. I would urge you turn down and vote against LR 18CA. Your citizens, the people you talk to back home are going to appreciate that. They will not appreciate this being put on the ballot. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Kristensen.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. If the constitution is so sacred and we want change to occur so slowly, then LR 18CA is exactly what you want to do. You're not taking away anyone's right to circulate a petition. You're not taking