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LR 18

away the right of any legislator to put up a constitutional amendment. What you're doing is slowing the process down so the constitution will not be changed so easily, that's the desire that everyone wants. This is not about LB 413, there are other ways to deal with LB 413. This applies to measures that we put out there as well. And what has happened is that I think there's been some popular misconceptions. One of those misconceptions were that when the Unicameral came into play with George Norris, so came initiative referendum. This section was put in, in 1912, long before George Norris ever thought about putting the measure before the voters. And the second house is the committee system. The people play a very important part of this, they share their power. They've only given so much power to the Legislature. But think about the comments that have been made this morning--I think we ought to slow up; I think we ought to let this sit. You know what, in fact this has been here now, this is its third year. This came out as a recommendation of the Constitutional Revision Commission to do this. This has been around. It's not like it just came up this year, it's been here. And when you are asked to sign that petition, you don't get a chance to lay that over, that happens in a few, short weeks. You don't get a chance to examine it and think about it, you don't get a chance to see who finances it after it's all done, you don't get a chance to see who the real motives are for those people. LR 18CA is going to allow you to do that. It doesn't change the number of signatures, it doesn't restrict the manner in which they collect those signatures, it takes away not one right from the people nor from the Legislature to change the constitution. But what it does do is slow it down and say we're going to get a chance to reflect on this. I'm sure there's a number of constitutional amendments that have occurred that we would have liked the chance to slow the process down and review it again after we've had a chance to see it. And if there is any lingering thoughts about big money buying spots onto the ballot, you may defeat them one year, you might defeat them two years, but sooner or later, time after time they are going to win. And it's not a very good defense to say we beat them last time, so we can beat them in the future because, if there truly is monied interest, Nebraska is a fairly small state and you can buy your way onto the ballot very, very easily, very easily. And so they'll come back time after time, and those grassroots efforts aren't going to be able to do it. What happens when