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LR 18

there's a measure that's of extreme importance to the state that doesn't have all the grassroots groups interested in it because it doesn't affect their industry, their group? Who's going to be out there? Just the monied interest.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: What happens when the Legislature all of a sudden decides there's a very popular measure? I don't know what the issue is going to be. But all of a sudden in a rush of people they want to pass that. It's a restriction, it's a big restriction on the Legislature here as well. And so I agree, it's a big step. But I'll guarantee you we've spent more time debating this big step than is ever spent when people sign a petition. You'll sign it so you get out of my way, so I can go in and buy my groceries, or I can go to a baseball game. And so when you talk about deliberate moves, we have been here and we have taken the time to do that. And the voters will ultimately get to decide whether this is a good thing or not. But I would hope that you wouldn't miss this chance to really protect the document that everybody really professes that they want to protect, and that's our State Constitution.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Senator Wickersham, on LR 18CA.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, members of the body, I want to reaffirm something that I think I heard Senator Kristensen say. At least in my understanding of the development of the Nebraska Constitution the initiative and referendum process had nothing to do with the views of George Norris about a Unicameral or anything else. What I recall about the history of the initiative and referendum process is that it came into being at a time when our state was undergoing political reform due to perceived or real, you can put it into either category if you want, but perceived or real abuses from railroads and other large businesses. There was a perception that those interests controlled the Legislature, through a variety of means. And over time there was an effort to elect members to the Legislature and then to submit to the voters a proposal for the initiative and referendum process and that was done, but it was done in the spirit of reform and to break a hold that the voters perceived by some large, well-financed interests. I hope that