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LR 18

are not going to let me escape that easily. So until you see the smoke, I am still here. But to crassly and blatantly lie to people about the aim of this petition, namely to do away with restrictions on how long somebody can be in office shows what is done by these efforts that Senator Dierks and others are so eager to protect. If that system were not corrupted through the introduction of obscene amounts of money, were it not corrupted through deliberate lies and misrepresentation,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...the entire matter could be discussed at a different level. In fact, Senator Dierks, in the western part of Nebraska, where this petition drive originated, my name is the lightning rod around which they rally to try to get me out of office. What difference should it make to those white people out in western Nebraska whether black people put me in office? What difference should it make to them? But it makes all the difference in the world. I am in support of LR 18CA, and I hope that we have enough votes to advance it, then ultimately enough votes to pass it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Cudaback (sic). Senator Schimek, on the advancement of LR 18CA.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I think what we have to remember is that the petition process has changed forever in this state and in every other state in the United States. There was a court case in Colorado, a few years ago, Meyer v. Grant, which basically said a state cannot prohibit paid circulators. That changed our policies and it changed the policies of every...or almost every other state that has initiative and referendum. What it means is that we are, from here on out, probably going to have predominantly paid circulators rather than volunteer circulators. And for those of you who have not been in the body very long, we have tried to grapple with that distinction in this...in previous legislative sessions. And one of the things that we tried to do was we talked about a bifurcated system, whereby you would treat volunteer circulators different from paid circulators in order to encourage volunteer circulators. There was some question raised about whether constitutionally you could do that or not.