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LR 18

think if we just stop and think...say to ourselves we're not changing anything, we're just saying vote on it twice. And the next morning don't read in the paper and say, hey, on second thought, I should never have voted for that. Just think about that. On second thought I should never have voted for that constitutional amendment. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Beutler, on the motion to advance LR 18CA.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I certainly support advancement. And I just wanted to remind the body of the fact I think everybody is aware of in the back of their minds, but bears repeating I believe. And that is simply the fact that there are only 16 or 17 states in this Union that allow initiative and referendum at all. So for all the rest of them, I mean obviously we have a process that gives more access to the people than most of the states. And even if you adjust it in the manner that's being suggested today, we're still going to be in the top third of the states in terms of giving access to the people to constitutional changes. So I think it, to me at least it...that gives some perspective to the whole issue when you start out from the proposition that this is a state that maximizes access to the people, to the point that it's probably a weakness. It is a weakness, in my opinion anyway. So that even if you adopt the...even if the people adopt the Kristensen suggestion, we're still going to be in the top third of the states in terms of giving access to people. So I don't think anybody can fault us in terms of sharing...sharing power with the people in terms of changing the constitution. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members. We get back to...Senator Cudaback's remarks were fine. I...why are we afraid to let the people vote on an issue? It seems as though we don't want...we don't want the people to run a petition. That's fine, you know, I think that's great. We talk about that being the second house. I'll argue that the second house is actually the committee hearings, has been