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LR 8

ignorant. I don't think it's stupid to have statements like this in the constitution. Maybe I'm stupid. I'm sure Senator Chambers will (laugh) address that. But let's discuss it. Let's talk about it. I don't want to wait until organizations come in here and force people to do things in this state that they don't want to do. That's all I'd have, Mr. President. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend. Before we go on, the pastries that you received earlier are for Senator Fischer's birthday, so let's welcome...or let's congratulate her on her birthday and wish her many more. On with discussion of the reconsideration motion. Senator Smith, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Perhaps my remarks will not contain the passion of Senator Friend, but I do hope that I can contribute somewhat to the discussion. I have to say that when this constitutional amendment was originally proposed I did look at it with some skepticism on the necessity. As I've observed the extremism in defense of certain narrow issues, not in the defense of liberty, as Barry Goldwater once stated, but extremism in the defense of some narrow environmental agendas and various court decisions over the years, the last few years more specifically, I see not only the desire to have LR 8CA pass, but I think the genuine need. My thoughts were codified yesterday when I received a letter from a judge, a current judge, taking four and a half pages to dispute a law that we have on the books, and close with the sentence: But while I know the judiciary should strive to adhere to scrupulous standards of fairness and uniformity, my lingering doubts will continue to tell me that that probably is not possible relating to this issue. I know it's a different issue, but any time a member of the judiciary says that it's not possible to be fair and uniform according to the statutes of the state, I have lingering doubts as to how much authority we should delegate to the judiciary. Therefore, when we can be more specific in a general sense, we're not legislating through LR 8CA. We are proposing in concept form that these are areas of public policy that need to be protected. I've attended various political conventions and otherwise and I've seen these