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April 21, 2005 LR 8

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...which may lead to one or two others. Senator Schrock, do you agree with the principle with which I agree, by the way, that the people, by petition, can put anything into the constitution that they choose?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, I do agree with that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So my amendment could be put into the constitution if we placed it on the ballot and enough people voted for it, my amendment being hunting for a way to defend and protect the Constitution of Nebraska from frivolous amendments that would clutter, demean, and trivialize it. That could be put into the constitution, couldn't it?

SENATOR SCHROCK: No, because I don't think you have 33 votes and I don't think the petition people are going to do that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Here's the point I'm trying to get at. That's why I said if it was put on the ballot and a sufficient majority voted for it, that could be put into the constitution, couldn't it?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, you are right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So, Senator Schrock, should everything that can be put into the constitution be put into the constitution?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Probably not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. And I knew the answer that he would give, and that brings us right to a consideration of what we have before us today. This is one of those feel-good pieces that can be used as a basis to campaign for a political office when those who will use it cannot be here any more than eight years. And maybe if people really knew what their attitude was toward the constitution they wouldn't get here in the first instance, and it wouldn't be necessary to defend the constitution against unnecessary frivolous amendments of the type that is proposed in LR 8CA. It is frivolous. That means it has no substance, no basis, no need. Senator Flood knows