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FLOOR DEBATE

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LR 12

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek, would you yield to a question from Senator Chambers?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schimek, you've been the Chairperson of the Government, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee for some time. And elections are one of the subjects which your committee has jurisdiction over. Is that true?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How many votes would it take to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: It depends on whether you're talking about the general or the primary.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The minimum number.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thirty.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, the debate is good. Differing proposals should be discussed. But ultimately, there's going to have to be a settling on a realistic approach. The last one barely got 25 votes. I used a stratagem, because I felt I could knock one of those votes off, which happened. Senator Landis used a stratagem which weakened Senator Byars, and he put up a very imprudent, unwise, 25th vote. So now that amendment has been adopted. When something is that weak, and it takes 30 votes, sometimes we ought to think. I talked about that this morning in another context. We should be aware of what the ultimate destination is. If the purpose is to prevent a matter from going on the ballot, that last vote accomplished it. You cannot get on the ballot with 25 votes. Not everything before the Legislature can be settled with 25 votes, as some people delight in saying. Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: what might have been. The coldest words of tongue or pen are only these: I knew him when. The first one was by John Greenleaf Whittier. The second one was a takeoff by some fellow who's not well known.