

unshakable belief in the idea that the constitution must be preserved and protected from incursions by amendments that take away from what its purpose is. These proposals to shorten the session are not being offered, I give this as my opinion, in the interests of the public. It's offered, probably, because people have jobs and they have to spend too much time away from those jobs, serving in the Legislature. These are some of the types of considerations that ought to prevent senators from trotting out to their constituents, when they want to get elected, and criticizing what they call life or career politicians, which they're trying to become themselves. If you really are to be a citizen Legislature, run in here those few days, take the time away from your job, and then go back to your job when the Legislature adjourns sine die. But I think the realization is striking home to more and more people who serve in this Legislature, and some, only after they get here and have been here a while, how much time it takes if you're going to do the job in a way that is appropriate, how much time after we adjourn at the end of a day, how much time after we adjourn sine die, and sometimes during those long weekends when we recess. There are bills to be read, amendments to be drafted, constituent problems to be addressed, and a host of other things...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...which somebody running for this office may not even contemplate as being a part of the day-to-day duties that you attempt to discharge the best way that you can. So when we are faced with a proposition to take away days during which we can do that which most people believe is our primary job, and I would agree, that is to enact wise and just legislation, I think those proposals are not the kind that we ought to submit to the public for a vote. On occasion the public has rejected things that the Legislature offered, such as doing away with final reading. Maybe, although they say the Legislature should never meet, and they would feel better, if an attempt is made to reduce the time when the Legislature meets, you may be surprised that the public would reject such a notion, especially when they see that the number of days is about two months.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Wesely, you're recognized to close.