

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 10, 1997 LR 7

General made appeals to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court basically said the voters did not...the voters did not approve it. That their ruling in the case involving the 1988 amendment still stood and forced the Attorney General to concede the court's reasoning, which brings us then to the discussion of this particular amendment. I'd like to address the issue of constitutionality because I know that is going to be the question on the floor of this Legislature. And the reason it is a question is because the Attorney General raised it when responding to a request from Senator Dierks several years ago about the constitutionality, and he basically said it was unconstitutional. This year several days, a week ago or so, the Attorney General issued a press release and said that 7CA...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...is unconstitutional. And, Madam President, I have my light on again because I don't believe I can possibly finish this in the next minute. I call your attention to the fact that the Attorney General says in this letter that the greatest danger posed by LR 7CA is not that it will result in expensive taxpayer-funded litigation but that it would...has the potential to eliminate the initiative process entirely. That is a fairly preposterous statement to my way of thinking. He says while this result seems absurd, and I would agree, it should be remembered that the Nebraska Supreme Court held that term limits on state officials could not be severed...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...from Congressional term limits.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I have to tell you that I've been through this process for about four or five years now and I'm so concerned about what we're doing to the people of our state with this process. I think that this is one of the reasons that the Unicameral system was established because they were promised the right of initiative and referendum. And if we would do anything that would destroy that part of our process, that would be a