

signatures by at least twelve percent. What that is is an incentive for people who are signing petitions loosely, passing them around loosely and not being sure of the absolute veracity of the signatures there, to continue to do so and if anything be even looser. Just make sure that you've got plenty of signatures on those petitions, right, wrong or indifferent, whether they're from the county, whether they're the proper name, whether they comport with the voter registration, but make sure you've got a lot of names on those petitions. Beat that twelve percent and then throw in the towel. The county clerks have no obligation to do so. They won't be checking these signatures by law. They have no obligation and certainly no desire to go through thousands and thousands of signatures. I would agree wholeheartedly with Senator Murphy, for one thing, because there is no requirement for random or spot checking to give us any incentive to meet the requirements of veracity in the signatures on petitions. The idea that every third page is a matter of law is simply not so. This is a matter of policy and if we have such worn out, weary county clerks who don't want to meet this obligation, then they're probably not going to want to meet a policy offered to them by Allen Beerman when the law requires them not to do anything, but to simply accept the petitions. I would agree with Senator Murphy that a change has to be made in 421. Although I would perhaps consider the idea of random spot checking, the law as written does not include that at all. Once you meet twelve percent more than is required by law, the petition goes unchecked as far as state law is concerned, and anything that is done, any policy that is instituted to assure veracity of the signatures is simply a matter of good faith and added burden by county clerks, and there's no reason to expect that to be so. Therefore, I will be supporting Senator Murphy on LB 421's amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, I certainly will support Senator Murphy. You know, Nebraska has I believe a reputation for honesty in government and politics of all kinds, and I would hate to see that change, and I think this might be opening the door. I'm not saying that people are dishonest, and I am sure that if the people who carry petitions are informed and they know exactly what they are to do, it might be okay. I'm not as trusting maybe as some others, but let's face it, in the past we know how many errors that there have been in petition drives.