

necessarily unfolding the way I wanted it to but I think it is an important issue and I think it deserves your attention for hopefully the next hour or so because it is something that does need debate. I handed out some sheets and the one at the top of the sheet says, "Comparison of Percentage Requirements". You see there the current numbers required on signatures needed on petitions for initiative and referendums. You see LR 318 and you see committee amendments which we now have rejected. I think we have to have the backbone to discuss issues like this that are controversial. They are not popular with a lot of our constituents and you have had, I am sure, numerous inquiries from people saying, why in the world would we attempt to do this? Look at the numbers and study them for just a moment if you would. Initiative statutory, this would be to change, for example, the speed limit from 55 to 60, requires seven percent of those voting for Governor at the most recent election. LR 318 would change that to eight percent, a modest change. Constitutional amendments, initiative, current 10 percent, no change under LR 318. Referendum... Mr. Speaker, could I have a hammer, please, I am having trouble hearing myself back here.

SPEAKER NICHOL: You certainly may. Please hold the conversation down so we can hear the speaker. Let's be ladies and gentlemen about this. Thank you.

SENATOR RUPP: A referendum without suspension of a targeted statute, and I will use an example here, the seat belt bill. The seat belt bill did, in fact, get over five percent of the signatures. It did not get 10 percent so it did not suspend the targeted statute and it did, in fact, take effect, is now at 5 percent. Under LR 318 again a modest change would go to 8 percent. A referendum with suspension of the targeted statute is currently at 10 percent and I will give you another example here, LB 662, the 10 percent was surpassed and they got, in fact, 18 percent, so it did suspend the statute and LR 318 would not change that portion of it. So those are the numbers. It is important that you understand these numbers were put in in 1912. To the best of my knowledge they have not been discussed since and I think it is time that they should be discussed. If nothing else it is an unpopular proposal but as a swan song, if you will, for the Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee I think it is an area that we should talk about if, in fact, this is the last year for the committee. I