

would say at the outset that I hope nobody stands up in the next hour or so of debate and insults my intelligence or insults anybody's intelligence by making a nice rhetorical statement about this is taking away the right of the people or we are abridging or circumventing the right of the people. We are not because we have to remind ourselves at times this is a constitutional amendment. The people would be the ones that make the decision ultimately if it were placed on the ballot. Having said that, I will now bet an ice cream cone that before we are done somebody will stand up and say we are taking away the right of the people. The philosophy in this is a lot more important than the numbers who we are going to plug in eventually and we probably won't plug any in, but I think again I am going to use this process to generate some debate. The numbers in committee, quite frankly, in the committee proposal said we are going to have an auction process out here on the floor as we do with all bills that contain numbers and we have rejected those now, so let's forget about that part of it. In the committee hearing I tried to ask people to be...just forget for a moment all the issues that have come down the line in the matter of ballot proposals, asked them to try to forget those and think from this point forward rather than from this point backward. And I know that is unrealistic because right away some of you start thinking about Initiative 300. Okay, that would be unchanged. It remains at 10 percent because it was a constitutional amendment. The clean groundwater petition that is circulating somewhere out in Nebraska right now remains unchanged at 10 percent. The taxpayers survival coalition lid remains unchanged at 10 percent. The lottery proposal that is supposedly going to be generated or circulated remains unchanged at 10 percent. To tell you the truth, I have some concern with the referendum portion of it, more so than the initiative portion of it. Think a minute for the 662 repeal, think about the numbers there. The people that favor repeal of 662 strenuously oppose LR 318 and I don't really know why because almost doubled the number of signatures that would be needed even if LR 318 passes. They almost quadruple the number of signatures that were needed without 318. So I don't understand why they are getting quite so uptight about this because they went far and beyond and any important issue like that that has a lot of emotion and so forth in it is going to get the signatures. The seat belt petition, that group circulated with no money and no organization. I think they will admit, if you ask them, that they merely sat