

proposals to the public, whereas the public chose not to submit any proposals before themselves. Now, what is, in fact, the best percentage to have for initiative and referendums? Is it 5, is it 8, is it 10, is it 20? I think that past history has shown that the present percentages work pretty well. They are rarely used by the public and they are only used in situations where there is extreme...people are extremely upset over a piece of legislation that we passed or they see that the Legislature has chosen to ignore a particular issue, such as Initiative 300, which was submitted before this Legislature over the past decade prior to its passage in '82. In addition, I can't remember how many letters I got dealing with the seat belt law. That has probably been the most volatile issue that has been submitted to the Legislature since I have been in here as far as the amount of letters and calls that I have received and that goes ditto for LB 662, a very controversial piece of legislation. And the public has shown great restraint in choosing only to seek to reject the Legislature's wisdom in only two instances when there has been hundreds of bills passed by the Legislature. Now, I would like to focus in finally on one argument that I think is probably the most persuasive to this body and that is the initiative and referendum process is simply a safety valve. It is simply a safety valve. The voters...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR ABOUD: ...will only change the law rather than change the senators that pass the law. If they are that upset about 662, they are going to go through the petition process rather than saying, well, let's get a new senator to represent us that is going to vote the other way. Or if they get upset about seat belts, they are going to say, well, I sure am upset about that but we have the petition process to change that law. Now, if we didn't have this process, or if the hurdle was placed so high that it could not be reached, I think we would have more interest on...I think we would have more interest on who would be running in the Legislature. Now, I think the safety valve is an important reason why this body should not increase the hurdle for the initiative and referendum process. It is going to be affecting us directly. With that, I urge the killing of LR 318. With that, we can move on to other business. Thank you.