

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Yes.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Could we hold it down. I can't hear the speaker and I would kind of like to. Thank you.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Senator Nichol. I recall a couple of years ago when we had a legislative seminar we had a couple of gentlemen speak on the trend towards initiative and referendum petitions and suggest that Nebraska was probably going to follow the suit of California and some of the other states and apparently we haven't hurried in that direction but we are moving rapidly in that direction and I think there is a need for a little more careful scrutiny of some of these kinds of measures. All of us know when we are presented with a bill in here sometimes upon first glance it looks like a good idea and then as the other side comes forward or other facts become known, we reconsider and realize that some of the impacts of that legislation are less desirable. I would suggest that the average citizen out there who is sometimes approached at the county fair or someplace to sign some particular petition faces that same kind of dilemma and that has already been pointed out. But it is very hard when a neighbor that you like and respect comes up and is carrying a petition and wants you to sign it and you start asking questions and a lot of times you end up defending your position rather than getting answers to your question. I thought about this particularly in light of the complexity of an issue such as Initiative 300, the complexity of an issue such as LB 662 which can often be very much simplified depending on the kind of label we attach to them and I think it might even be appropriate as we consider this to see if there is a way for some kind of public hearing process to be inserted into this process so that we know what the contents of that petition are from both sides before it is presented in the public for signatures. I think it would lead to a better quality legislation, those items that ultimately do pass, and at the same time would not deny the general public the avenues that they currently have. So I commend Senator Rupp for bringing us this suggestion and I think we ought to advance it. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Abboud, then Senator Lundy. Senator Abboud, before you do, I would like to say that I would like to dispose of this bill and also 105 today and then we will knock it off for the day if we can make it that