

flooded. The number really is of no significance. The significance is of the complexity and the importance of some of the issues on the ballot and those things that we have had in the past of whether to do away with Final Reading, probably 13 times, and whether for senatorial pay raise, a dozen times. Those really aren't...they pale by comparison to Initiative 300, 662 repeal, and so forth. And so it is not the number, it is the complexity. Senator Abboud said he didn't see a big problem occurring here in the past. Well, I am worried again about the future and I am telling you that look at this fall, for example, we might have a lottery thing on it. We might have a lid thing on there. We might have a clean water amendment. We probably will have some modification or something, repeal of Initiative 300. We have got a seat belt referendum. We have got a 662 referendum. I don't know what else we will have on there but I will tell you this, when there gets to be a blizzard of things on there and people start complaining and saying this is too much for me to digest, they are going to say, how in the world did the Legislature allow this to happen? You know whose fault it is going to be. It is going to be ours and I think it is something we have to discuss. Senator Abboud also said he was a little suspicious because I designated this my priority bill. I would tell you it is kind of strange how it unfolded but the day before we had to turn in our priority bill designation, I amended my priority bill into Senator Conway's race horse priority bill so I, in essence, had mine to waste and I thought it was a good opportunity to get it out here on the floor for discussion. I do wish you would read some of the things on this long sheet I handed out. There are some very profound statements on there. For example, there is no opportunity for us to vote on national issues. Who would say national matters are less important than state issues? Professor Sittig said this. I think we have lost the spirit of the system somewhere along the line. He talked about the psychology of getting people to sign petitions. That person that signs a petition ought to believe what is in there and there is enough data to prove that is not the case. Then the rest of us get pestered with it on election day. Be it 8, 10, 12 or 14 percent, I am sure circulators would get the signatures. I will say again for about the tenth time, I am not questioning the validity of the process, I am questioning the numbers. Professor Sittig and I also discussed this and we both admitted this is not an issue that would pass with the voters first crack out of the box.