

Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I agree with Senator Baack, the petition process should be protected. It should be to the maximum extent possible guaranteed to be accessible to the people. There should be no argument about that. Number two, I have no problem whatsoever if the senator wants to put an amendment to the bill. It might be the most important part of the bill, requiring some sort of educational process for the circulators of the petitions to guarantee that they understand what the petition does. That isn't what this bill does. This bill doesn't do a thing about that. This bill does not say we shall, to the best of my knowledge, at least, that we shall educate the circulator prior to the time that they are employed. Now let's go a little farther. Someone says we ought to require that they be paid. This isn't the kind of a job, ladies and gentlemen, where you get to work at eight in the morning and you go out and you work until noon. And then you take an hour off for lunch, and then you come back at one o'clock and work until five. I might hire Senator Labeledz to circulate that petition for me and say, Senator Labeledz, I'll give you...probably not. I will pick on someone else. Senator Schrock, I will say, Senator Schrock, I will give you a dollar a signature, and so he says, fine. And about two weeks later he comes back and he has 20 signatures and he has a bill for \$4 an hour for 80 hours, and I say, well, how do I know you worked 80 hours? He says because that is what I am telling you, I worked 80 hours. Totally unsupervised. There is no one to supervise that he was working. Now Senator Schrock and I talked about this a little bit. As a farmer, I pay for the hay baling by the bale. I pay for my combining by the acre. It is a unit process. I wouldn't send someone out and hire them to bale hay and say I will give you \$1,000 a day. They would never get the job done. They would never bale. If you send 500 individuals out on an hourly basis, on an hourly basis, to gather signatures, there are some of them that are going to head for the nearest bar, and they are going to sit there and drink beer all day, and there is going to be no way you are going to know whether they worked or not. In fact, it might not be a bad idea if that is what they did, in some cases. But the facts are these, we know that this Legislature, time after time after time, refuses to accept responsibility in certain areas and then the people react. I was involved in that. Initiative 300, for example, for many years I opposed that bill on the floor and I refused to support it. Finally, the people took it upon themselves and they enacted the