

initiative process and it became a part of the Constitution. Then I have been besieged with requests to introduce an amendment on this floor that would repeal it, and I refuse to do so because I said the people did it by the initiative process, if they want it repealed, it ought to be done the same way, and the Legislature ought not to be the instigator of the repeal process. Even though I still don't support the amendment, I don't think it has done what we wanted it to do but, nonetheless, I think that the people have a right to the same kind of process with a repeal that we had in bringing it to fruition. But most of all, I want to warn you of this, and it may...it probably will fall upon deaf ears because most of you are far more experienced in this area than I am, and you are far more gifted and much more eloquent. The facts are, ladies and gentlemen, you are opening a Pandora's Box. Just suppose that the Farm Bureau, for example, decided to circulate a petition and we say now we are not going to pay you, but at noon you meet me at the Kentucky Fried Chicken and we are going to buy you lunch. Senator Withem, on your own time sometime answer me whether or not that constitutes payment. Does the fact that I bought lunch for the circulators require me then to pay them a minimum wage? I think that you might find that it does. There are a multitude of other problems that you create and you are going to find yourself in a position of being guilty of felonies. You are going to create a full list of crimes and that, in effect, will eventually deter the petition process. We ought not to do that. We ought to encourage it and we ought to make it easier to petition rather than to make it more difficult. Make all the arguments you want about responsibility, equity, we know it is nonsense. We know that isn't what we are trying to do. We are trying to make it more difficult to allow the people to petition their government. In some cases, you can get the grass roots thing, whether it is instigated by a catalyst or not, that may be out there. I think Initiative 300 was a grass roots, but there are very few of those issues.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Ladies and gentlemen, I just want to say once again that no matter what you do here today, it is not going to hold up. I've said it now many times on this floor and, to my chagrin from time to time, I've been proven right.