

May 8, 1973

PRESIDENT: Well, then the chair is in the position here of still asking unanimous consent to place those bills at the top of General File, and are there objections? I hear no objections. Hearing none, again so ordered. The bills go to the top of General File. That brings up I think for General File debate LB 267 if we don't have any other business on the desk. General File debate, LB 267. Clerk will read the title.

CLERK: Reads title of LB 267. There are no committee amendments nor other amendments pending.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I didn't realize you were going to jump this. I have some extensive amendments which I had assumed I would have reproduced and passed out and I was not aware you were going to jump immediately to 267. You'd better pass over it because I'm sure the people would want to have these in their hands before I start to talk. I can have them reproduced as quickly as I can.

PRESIDENT: Well, all right, let's see what we can do here. Senator Fellman, is Senator Fellman in the Chamber? Senator Fellman, are you in a position to launch off on LB 310?

SENATOR FELLMAN: Yes, I think so.

PRESIDENT: Okay, the Clerk will read the title then.

CLERK: Reads title of LB 310. There are no committee amendments. There are amendments offered by Senator DeCamp, which would provide as follows. Reads amendment.

PRESIDENT: Is Senator DeCamp in the Chamber? Well, Senator Fellman, go ahead and explain your bill and we'll see...

SENATOR FELLMAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I can't discuss the amendments. I can discuss the bill itself, LB 310. Very briefly what the bill does is propose two things, one a limitation of the amount of money that can be spent in state races starting at the Governor's race and going down to the legislative races and that is the amount of the salary for the primary and twice the salary for the general election. The exception is the Lieutenant Governor's race where at the general election the amount of money available to both the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor can be spent together since they will be running on a ticket. Then it includes a series of items that this money can be spent for and excepts other items. Now the purpose of this bill I think is very simple and has become much more important during the last few weeks. The, we have all read in the papers about the Watergate situation. There are many, many complications and many elements to the entire Watergate affair. It seems to me without question that one of the elements present in the Watergate episode is the abundance of money available for campaign expenditures and the almost total absence of strict requirements involving the use of that money, and also lax reporting. Some of these measures are covered in LB 267 which is Senator Warner's bill. At the simplest, much of the Watergate which involved the expenditures of vast amounts of money could not have taken place if there was an honest-to-goodness limit on the amount of money that could be spent in any individual political campaign. We have seen in this state, in statewide races, examples of campaigns where the single dominant ingredient was the expenditure of vast amounts of money and people have claimed, some say correctly, that we have had examples in our own recent history of campaigns that have been bought by the expenditure of money which resulted in victory. I'm well aware that there are many people who feel that this formulation is not satisfactory. I don't know that