

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 27, 2004 LB 762

view as not fair--let me revert to, Senator Redfield asked what's fair, and gave very good arguments on both sides--I suggest it's unfair if I, as a candidate, work very hard to raise as much money as I can and then my opponent is funded by state dollars. That I view as unfair. We also heard about some isolated or, I guess, high-profile instances with Regent Ferlic and Regent Hawks and that they spent tremendous amount of monies. In fact, they did, and good for them. If they had the commitment and if they in fact want to invest monies that are given to them or their own, good for them. They believe in a cause, they believe in serving, and I believe they're, in their cases, are two of the best regents that Nebraska has got. And Senator Foley suggested in his testimony that voters believe the system is rigged. I presume that that means it's rigged because of there's a lot of money, a lot of special interest dollars in the campaigns. I suggest quite the opposite. The special interest money that I received in my campaign, I can tell you I've never been asked for a vote. I've been asked by, again, friends, constituents to vote in a certain way and, once we discuss it, I explain my position, but special interests, whatever that means, have never asked me for a vote. He also said that voters, there's a...the basis upon which voters stay away from the process is special interest money. I suggest it's candidates and lack thereof. It's candidates and issues. And like everyone in here, but for maybe a few that were unopposed, in addition to raising money, you knock on doors, you eat fish at fish fries, you eat pancakes, you do all those things to get elected. This isn't just about money and I think that's been well discussed by other candidates. My race, I raised...I raised, I think, in excess of \$80,000. I was prepared initially to raise significantly more than that. I thought it would cost more than that. Senator Janssen said that he didn't have to raise a lot of money in Dodge County, and maybe that worked for him. My county or my district, 18, is largely suburban.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: One minute.

SENATOR MINES: That simply means that you can knock on their doors, but you also have to do direct mail. You need to do media and that costs money. The campaign limit, I never intended to abide by the campaign limit, and I think those that