

don't think that is a beneficial development. The public has not been fair with us on the matter of expenses. We all know that but I suggest to you that rather than taking Senator Chambers' approach and to say to hell with the public, that you try to show them that we are playing it straight in the Legislature. I think that if you just thumb your nose at them, that you will find it will have an adverse impact on requests for expenses, on requests for constitutional changes raising the salary.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have thirty seconds.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I think that will be the real and true impact of rejecting this kind of a bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to oppose the kill motion. I think that this bill has been thought out. We heard it in committee and it was well discussed. Senator Beutler's amendment may, in fact, be necessary or beneficial. I'm not sure it is necessary but it might be beneficial, further tighten up the questions and further clarify questions of use but I think what we really need to look at here is the question of the public's concern, the question of whether the public feels that the Legislature is, in fact, trying to make sure campaign funds are used for just exactly that, campaigns. Frankly this Legislature is underpaid and we all know that. There are not many in this body who would argue that although they argue that maybe we shouldn't present to the voters a proposal to raise the salary and frankly that does put a hardship on many of us. There is a need from time to time to use campaign funds for trips and those kinds of things, trying to get back and forth to our district and certain other costs because frankly, we don't get expenses and we are woefully underpaid. Frankly I see it as a question of the chicken and the egg, what comes first. Do we assure the public that what we are doing is legitimate, is honest, is aboveboard, and then present those things to the public and say, "And know please, that we also have some tremendous financial problems and that we really need to be paid a higher salary. We really do need expenses. We do have costs associated with serving in this body." But I think we also have the responsibility of the public and that is to show them that we are not using these dollars that normally come to us in terms of campaign contributions for other purposes, that frankly the monies that we are being given are only campaign