

limiting expenditures, we get into, Senator Robinson, we get into freedom of speech, constitutional questions. I completely agree with you, Senator Robinson, that we should limit the amount of expenditures for campaigns. I think in the last couple of years in particular the public has been, not outraged, but highly, have highly questioned the amount of money that was spent in the gubernatorial races in this state and I think that they would be very supportive of something that could work. What we need is we need some kind of a bill where the limits will be voluntary, if we are to meet constitutional muster, and that's why we can't just impose some kind of an arbitrary limitation. We have to have a scheme, if you will, that will get candidates to participate in it. And remember, this income tax does not kick in until after you have reached a certain threshold, until you've raised a million dollars, say in the gubernatorial campaign. Then the income tax kicks in and anybody who contributes to your campaign after that ought to know that 50 percent of it is going to go back to the State of Nebraska because you're over what we, as the Legislature, consider to be a good amount, let's say, to spend in a gubernatorial race. So once again there may be some things that we need to work out in this because it is a new idea and it's a new bill, but I just... I think it's very unique. I commend Senator Lindsay for bringing it to us and let's work with it. Let's take it on down the road a little while and see if we can't maybe work out a few of these date problems and so forth. Because it is new, it may require that added effort. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I'd like to try to touch on the answers to a couple of questions that have been raised. First, Senator Schmit raised the questions regarding somebody giving you \$100 contribution and half of that having to go to the state. That's exactly the kind of thing we're wanting to avoid. People should be able to with a smaller contribution, should be able to help you out, but what happens realistically, and I think each of us know that, and if we don't know it, I've got that campaign manual that shows where our contributions came from, we get the money from PACs, let's be up front about it. That money is coming from PACs, it's coming in large denominations and those PACs will either (a) see it as a cost of doing business and be willing to donate anyway, or (b) they will see that as they don't want to give that money