

stealing, they say you just haven't got caught yet. No matter what legislators do, it's going to make the public no difference whatsoever if this is being undertaken because it somehow bears on how capably we will perform as representatives of the people, that's one thing. But how many times on the floor of this Legislature are we really concerned about what the public wants in terms of what is best for the public. This is a candidate's bill and I'll tell you again, in view of what Senator Beutler said, why I'm against it and I don't think there is any way to solve the problem. For me to qualify for public funds I have to reach a certain level of money that I have raised. My opponent will say that he or she is not going to abide by that limit so they can raise any amount of money they want to. This bill does not put a spending limit on anybody and it cannot without the public funds provision, but the public funds provision is a chimera. It is something that has no meaning whatsoever because the one who is able right now to raise all the money will still be able to do it without any penalty. The one who cannot raise the money still cannot raise it and cannot get the public funds because of an ability to raise enough money to get over the threshold. So whether public funds are spent or not, Senator Beutler, is not really the issue. The issue that I'm trying to make us face is that this bill does not limit anything. The one who chooses to say I'm not going to abide by it can raise and spend as much as he or she chooses. The one who cannot raise enough money to get over the threshold still cannot do it so this bill does not equalize the disparity between those who can raise a lot of money and those who cannot. The only reason the public funds provision was put in is to circumvent the Supreme Court's ruling that you cannot arbitrarily impose these kind of limits. Now when Senator Baack had offered an amendment relative to the Legislature and the limit there, I didn't realize it was going from 40,000 to 50,000. I thought they struck the 40,000 and it was \$50. That would be closer to what the kind of money that I'm accustomed to having available. I don't go out and hustle and beg money. People send me checks and I, as courteously as I can, return them. I have never tried to spend my way into this office. Having been here 20 years, 22 years I think, Senator Warner, and you will understand how after you've been here so long it's seems you've been here forever and years just don't mean anything when you reckon how long you've been here because it seems like so much longer. I feel like I've been here longer than Senator Warner, but at any rate to have some degree of...Senator Hall says he feels like I've been here longer too, and he hasn't been here but a minute