

serious candidates. A person was elected to the United States Senate just a short time, just a day or so ago who was probably not considered a serious candidate by many persons until after the election. And so by what criteria do we decide that someone is or is not a serious candidate? Many young people like to get into politics. They have no record behind them. They have no established base and so they substitute hard work and campaign effort for dollars and that is a very commendable way to enter politics, but they may never be able to approach the threshold that we speak of as being necessary for public financing. We ought to encourage more participation in politics, not make it more difficult. One of my concerns is that in the small towns and communities of the State of Nebraska we find less interest in politics than we have over the years and a part of it has to do with campaign financing, the ease with which some candidates raise money and the difficulty that others find in raising money. I have to just comment also a little bit about the comments made by my good friend Senator Crosby. If you happen to live west of where I live districts are large. It costs a great amount of money to travel from one area to another. Here in this city, one ad in a newspaper will cover the entire city. In my district there must be by now with all two counties and parts of five, I will have to use at least six or eight or ten newspapers to cover that territory. It's 125 or 30 miles east and west and 150...

SENATOR WARNER: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...miles the other way I guess, about 150 miles across my district and I do not have a large district, but it is a serious problem to try to travel that district in a short period of time and it requires a lot of money and so there are other factors that are involved other than a per capita basis. It's much more expensive to contact people in a sparsely compacted area than it is in a densely compacted area. Senator Wesely in his district can stand on a street corner and in a short period of time I'm sure meet a large percentage of his constituents. If he were in his old home town of Bellwood he wouldn't meet very many people in that same period of time and so I just want to caution you that those of us who are incumbents and enjoy some of the perks of the office should not unintentionally, unintentionally, I assure you, make it more difficult for those who are not candidates to become candidates...