

thieves will make it anyway. You know what this reminds me of, having politicians talk about restricting the money available to themselves, you go to a town and the people are upset because they've been set upon by thieves and burglars and they need stronger locks so the thieves and the burglars become the only locksmiths in town and they put locks on the doors but they've got the keys. When we talk about campaign reform, public financing, but it's up the Legislature to appropriate the money, here's why that is so ridiculous. We all have said that the incumbent has an advantage. So you mean to tell me that the incumbents who can raise more than the spending limit are going to come to this Legislature and appropriate money to be available for their opponent? Is that what, Senator Crosby, this Legislature is going to do? I say no. Now if Senator Ashford and others want to limit what these PACs and other groups can do, there is a way to deal with that if we are people of principle. I understand that to get this money you have to prostrate yourself before these groups and be screened. You have to meet their orthodoxy to get their money and these people sit around and ask you questions. The only thing they don't make you do is strip yourself naked in terms of your physical person, but they strip you in another way. They take your dignity, they take your self-respect and they do purchase you. If you don't give the right answers to their questions, you're not going to get one thin dime and you know what the right answers are and you go prepared to give them because the reason for going is to get the money and you know what it takes to get the money. So just stop going to them. I like some people in the NSEA. I never go to them to let them ask me questions about anything. They ought to know what candidates are by what our record is, but what they want to do is wring from you some commitments about what you're going to do in the future and if you don't give those commitments you're not going to get a nickel from them and we all know it, so you may as well put the brand on your forehead like the mark of the beast so that we know in front to whom you belong. Now if we were in a situation where this bill to pass, Senator Baack, and the only way money will get into that fund to give money to our opponents, the only two in this Legislature who would vote for that appropriation are me and Jesus. I couldn't resist, Senator Crosby. But, Senator Crosby, I don't refuse to raise money because I'm such a wonderful person. It just goes to my philosophy of being in public office. Now I've down here 22 years. If people don't know what I'm about in this amount of time, I'm not even interested in telling them. If the people in my district think