

Requires 25 votes. Have you all voted? Have you all voted?  
Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, Mr. President, I hate to ask for another call of the house, but I suppose....

SENATOR WARNER: You might look at your own button, Senator Beutler. (Laughter) Clerk, record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President.

SENATOR WARNER: Motion is carried. Debate ceases. Senator Ashford, do you wish to close?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President, members, let me answer if I could the couple of the concerns that Senator Withem brought out and as I mentioned, one of the main criticisms of putting limitations on individual contributions is that it can, these large PACs like the whatever, the NRA, for example and others Never Reelect Ashford Committee, can splinter off and form other PACs and thereby get around the limitation. Of course with the aggregate of 17,500 there is no way to get around that aggregate limit. So that won't happen in effect. I mean, you're not going to get the NRA, you might get the NRA but other organizations breaking up into smaller PACs that would then give contributions because the aggregate of 17,500 would limit that. Secondarily Senator Withem brought up the point about the definition of persons and this amendment does amend other portion of the act which does define persons as including the PACs, corporations, and unions. Again, as I said in my opening, in my view the real problem in campaign financing, in campaign spending is the individual, the power of individual political action committees to influence elections and senators and as I said before and I'll say it again, the problem I think with the special interest groups that work through lobbyists in this body is not that they work through those lobbyists and deal with us on legislation and talk to us about it and try to influence us one way or the other. The problem is that they don't just influence us on a level playing field. They have the ability to go out to their groups and raise significant amounts of money, not to convince us to vote one way or the other and that does happen here and it happens in every other legislative body in the country and that's just plain wrong. That's giving much too much power to those individuals and to those special interest groups. The only way to stop that, the only way to