

a limit on the amount that PACs can contribute. So if there is to be a limitation in this bill, which bills itself as a measure dealing with limitations, what Senator Ashford is offering is the only type of limitation that is allowable. Whether the amount would be argued is a different question, but here is why maybe he has a point. Let me give a disclaimer before I go on. I don't even know what a PAC is because I don't take money from PACs or organizations, and maybe that is why they think of us as hyenas and jackals because those two types of animals run in packs, and if they get their money from PACs, and if I believe what Senator Ashford said about the PACs contributing the money are the PACs that control, then we have PACs dealing with packs, and there is a kind of inbreeding and maybe that is why some things happen in the Legislature in the way that they do. But without focusing on any specific Political Action Committee and looking only at the principle, the question that I would have to answer for myself is whether or not legislatures are to represent the interest of the people at large as understood by the individual legislators, or if they are to carry out the will of those who spend the money that put them in office. In America, at all levels, whether it is business, government, churches, museums, art and letters associations, even newspapers, the hand that provides the money controls. Newspapers and other media, whether they are radio or television or cable, like to portray themselves as fearless crusaders in behalf of the public upholding through exercise of the First Amendment, the right of people to dissent when governmental policies are not wise. But in reality, they respond to who provides the money for advertising. The newspapers are very cautious about trying to get that advertising dollar. Reporters are merely employees. They are not crusaders. Editorial writers, columnists do what they do because they are paid. If they were not paid, they would not do what they do. If newspapers, television stations, cable networks and radios did not make money, those people involved in those enterprises would not do what they do. They would seek some other way to make a living or to make money. So it is clear in this society that money controls. Whoever has the most money has the most control. There were dealings with Iraq which occurred basically because now strong evidence indicates of bribery. So if bribery can influence policies that relate to the national interest, to the granting or withholding of defense contracts, the production of various products that might endanger the lives of the young...