

idea would be if the main bill is good, if it is going to effect change, then this would even effect change better. I mean, you know, certainly you could opt out of the bill, but I think we have to look on it between General and Select to see if we can apply it to all campaigns.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Well, that is actually what I am asking for is the way I read this that it refers to any candidate. No candidate shall accept a contribution.

SENATOR ASHFORD: I think it is the way it is defined in the other part of the bill.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Okay, okay. Well, that had been my concern is limiting the aggregate amount that you can give. I think under Buckley vs. Valeo, which is a Supreme Court case that governs the area of political finance, we can limit contributions. The court has found that that is not a severe restriction on the right to freedom of expression. The question is on aggregating, putting a limitation on aggregate amounts from all sources except individuals, that unless that is limited only to those candidates that accept the public funding, I don't think we can do it. So as it is written now, we just have...you have it written so that it is just applying to those who are receiving the campaign funding? Okay. Then I...the flip side of that, I think, is the problem that the limitations, or I guess we could increase the amount of public money that will have to go into it, because if it is not binding, those aggregates are not binding, those that are not...are going to opt out of the act, that they are not bound by the aggregation limitations, and can raise some major league money, because that could either increase the cost of the bill or it is going to make it more difficult for the smaller candidates have to raise at least the threshold amount, could make it more difficult for them to do that because you are limiting the amounts from any particular PAC. I think we have got to take a look at it. I am still not sure, I guess, which direction to go on it but I think we've got to take a look at it, make sure it is going to have the intended affect. And I can see...I can see possibilities that it might have the adverse affect, and that is making it more difficult for the smaller candidate, or the candidate that doesn't have access to a great deal of PAC money, make it more difficult for that person, actually, to meet the threshold requirements and be able to qualify for the public funding.