

line 19, if you are looking at amendment 3627, which was the one I had on my desk, it reads in that Section number 2, a candidate for the Legislature, and in line 19 it says, and \$2,500 for a candidate for the Public Service Commission, Board of Education, or Board of Regents and the State Board of Education. I'm changing that to be the same for both members of the Legislature and these three other state elected agencies. So, that's all I'm doing. I'm just making them equal, as I did with the previous amendment on campaign spending limits in total. This is just on contributions.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam Chairman, members, I would support Senator Rod Johnson's amendment and recognize that communication is a very important method of campaigning. And there are very, very expensive messages whereby you can communicate, but the sheer distance of traveling in a 27-county area, and I've done that, is overwhelming sometimes. Sometimes I think, Senator Johnson, there ought to be a formula calculated, if we're going to try to be real persnickety about this, there ought to be something in there for density, density factor of some kind, because if you can campaign for that same position in the City of Omaha, you can stand on a street corner and see most of your constituents in a few days, whereas if you stand out at Bellwood or David City all day long, you're not going to see very many people. So, the attempts we are making here to try to bring about honesty in campaigning, honesty in politics, futile as they are, at least ought to have some semblance of fairness and equity. And to imply that the job of Public Service Commissioner is not as important as the job of State Senator is wrong. Even with the very, very limited activities over there, since the passage of that well renowned bill that I opposed, 835, nonetheless I think that there's still some opportunity over there for serious public service. And if you try to downgrade those jobs, Board of Regents, for example, a very, very important position, and one which ought to be open to those who aspire to it, and ought to be open without having to bring about great personal sacrifice. And I think that at some point we fail to recognize that some of those offices which are not necessarily notorious or noted by the public are extremely important to the citizens of the state, and ought to be recognized as such. And I believe that Senator Johnson's amendment does do that, not perhaps as much as it should, but to a certain extent, and I support it.