

cannot give it a green for sure. Whether or not I have it a red, you'll just have to wait and see, Senator Lamb.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President and thank you, Senator Chambers, for calling attention to that fiscal note that accompanied this. The cost for finance of election campaigns to the state, under this act, is difficult to estimate due to the voluntary nature. However, had it been in effect for the 1990 election, and had all candidates covered by the act that were contested participated, the total costs to the state could have been slightly over \$1 million General Fund dollars. I...I guess I rise to just kind of explain why I'm going to vote against this bill. I don't think public funding is...is ever good. Again I say this is a bill for incumbents. Incumbents have ways to receive special ads, you might say, which are not in kind costs, and which are not paid for. Someone said this would be adverse for the small candidate. I say it would be adverse for the weaker candidate. I think we all have to make our own decisions about limitations, both spending and in...in accepting contributions, and I spoke to that before. That is something that you have to make a personal decision on. But any decision you make is public, through our accountability and disclosure. And I think that's a good idea, that people should have the ability to see who does contribute to you, what percentage of contributions they contribute to you, and how much you spend compared to how much your opponent spends. So much goes into that. And Senator Beutler said, in his comments, everybody across the country is trying this, and nobody has succeeded in perfecting a system to curb undue influence, both in who contributes to campaigns, and who buys an election or buys a candidate. And I don't think LB 556 is perfect either. Senator Chambers has pointed out that we can make all kinds of laws and rules, and that those who want to get around them probably will. I see a big flaw in making this public funding, and I oppose LB 556

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Senator Baack, if you could yield just for a couple of questions, if...Senator Baack, I've been meaning to ask you during the debate, and have not been able to, so I'm going to