

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I just want to speak in favor of the advancement of the bill. And the only short comment I would like to make is to indicate that I do not feel in any way that this bill is an incumbents bill. I feel that on balance, very strongly it gives advantage to the candidate who is typically short of funds. When you make the statement that something is an incumbents bill, or it's not an incumbents bill, obviously you must say, as compared to what? And if you look at the current situation, whether at the federal level or at the state level, I don't think you can come to any conclusion but that it's an incumbents world right now. Clearly, the advantage of incumbency is the very thing that has interested people in these kinds of bills. And given the overwhelming advantage of incumbency right now, it's a little bit hard to argue that almost any change helps the incumbent. But this change certainly does not help the incumbent. Generally speaking, I think it's going to serve, if it has any effect, as a leavening effect, and will seek to decrease the difference between what an incumbent will raise or can raise and what will be raised by a candidate of lesser means. So I reject that characterization of the bill very strongly. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Abboud. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, there was a point that I really wanted to make, and Senator Kristensen came over here and just wiped it out. Let me ask Senator Beutler a question. Senator Beutler, and this is not the point that I wanted to raise. But it was...it's based on something you said. Are you aware of many instances, and I don't mean you have to give a specific example, of a nonincumbent raising substantially more money than an incumbent for any office?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Of a nonincumbent raising substantially more money than the incumbent?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: There is not one that comes to mind, Senator Chambers, right off hand.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, nor does it come to mind for me either. If there happens to be a situation where a strong nonincumbent