

were after here is to find a reasonable and rational solution. I, as Senator Abboud, would liked to have seen an individual PAC contribution limit. And there are a lot of us that have been involved in campaigns where we either received PAC contributions of greater than \$5,000, or our opponents received PAC contributions greater than \$5,000, and that's difficult, and that creates a real suspicion certainly that individual PAC's or corporations are, in effect, buying senators, and that's the perception out there. I question whether that actually occurs, but I think it's certainly a perception that the public has. But the aggregates, at least, gets us to that point and gets us...moves us toward the direction of limiting the PAC's influence, unreasonable influence in this process. As long as there's a level playing field, as we work towards a level playing field where PAC's, special interest groups...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...do not have undo influence, cannot use duress or financial duress to influence legislation, that's, I think, what we're all after. And we get there towards that goal in this bill. And again I applaud Speaker Baack for moving this to this stage of debate, and would urge its advancement. Thank you.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Ashford had said he didn't think...he said something about not buying senators. Could you repeat that so I won't misstate what you said, Senator Ashford. We're you saying that with this amount nobody could buy a senator, or what was your comment in that regard?

SENATOR ASHFORD: My comment, Senator Chambers, was that there was a perception by the public that that occurs, and that's why...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Buying of senators.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Buying of senators, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You mean as little as they think of us, you think that somebody would spend \$50,000 to buy one of us?