

CLERK: Senator, your amendment is on page 511 of the Journal.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, members. The amendment, if you remember, LB 28 is the bill that deals with contributions to political campaigns for statewide office as well as legislative races. And the bill is a prohibition for anyone who has a contract with the state for purposes of a lottery. The amendment that I offer begins on page 511 of the Journal, but in essence, I mean the text of the amendment is on page 512, says that, in so many words, that anyone who has a contract with the state in excess of \$100,000, that being the contract exceeds \$100,000, would be limited to a contribution of \$1,000 or less. So, it, in essence, takes the bill, my objection to the bill was, at the time that we debated it on General File, was that it singled out one type of state contract holder, that being lottery operators. The purpose behind it was that, as Senator Warner stated, and I think it's a valid argument, that it...there needs to be the appearance of propriety, that there not be any thought or perception that there's any influence that takes place in awarding of a state contract in this area. And I would argue that that holds true in any area. It holds true with regard to anyone who has a state contract, that there not be any undue influence, any perception of undue influence, and in fact we limit, through this amendment, everyone who holds a state contract for \$100,000 or more to a campaign contribution to those statewide officers or legislative races of \$1,000 or less. And I believe that it, in essence, becomes, to some extent, a bit of an ethics bill, if you will, as much as I don't like that term. I think what it does is says that if we're going to treat people in this area that have contracts with the state that they should be treated uniformly, that there should not be a limitation on a certain type of vendor who happens to contract with the state for lottery purposes, but yet that limitation is not there for another individual who would supply whatever type of material or service to state government. They would be free to contribute to campaigns. The way this version is currently drafted the limitations would be for contracts in excess of \$100,000 and for campaign contributions not to exceed \$1,000. I believe that it's a responsible way to address the issue. I have shown the amendment to Senator Warner last week because I thought we might get to it, but then we did not so had to print it in the Journal. I don't know, my guess is he will not support it. I don't know, let him speak for himself. But my thought is that