

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to amend. (FA87 appears on page 1281 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR HALL: Senator Bernard-Stevens, on the amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Beutler, I'm going to taste...I'm going to test the taste buds at this point and see what the mood of the body is. And this would simply strike, on page 2 of the green copy, lines 6 through 16, and those lines are the deductions. And I guess I have a couple of concerns about the deductions. Number one, just philosophically I don't understand why if we...if I or anyone have campaign funds and they spend it in those manners, why that should be a deduction from the total amount that would be available for taxation. I think the amount that you have in the fund is the amount that should be taxed as the present tax. I don't see any need for deductions. But, number two, I'm also thinking about campaign treasurers and the nightmare that, at some point, and it would be a nightmare to me, maybe to the other treasurers it would be a walk in the park and something they dearly would love to do and they couldn't wait to do the next reporting time, but not only to have the amount of income that's there to fill out the tax returns, what have you, but also have the deductions, list all the deductions, compute what's going to be there. I don't know what, at that point, accountability, I assume accountability and disclosure would...might need to say we need to have more people because we have to audit now all these deductions to make sure that they're proper. I don't think we need to get into that, quite honestly. So this would simply take out the deduction part and would leave the bill such that the tax would be on the amount over 2,000 in the account, based on the percentages that were in the bill. I think it makes...if we're going to do this bill, I think this is a cleaner way to do it and it would make more sense to do it that way, so I put the option before the body.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. On the amendment, Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, I have two questions if Senator Beutler wouldn't mind answering them.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Beutler.