

the money, that that would be a high priority. And for us to somehow allow those deductions seems like we're saying those are the most important things that campaign money is for and I don't think anybody here thinks that. So I don't know why we would want to give that impression in the law. Again, I...if it helps, I'm okay without deductions but I'm certainly okay with the Maurstad amendment and it makes...I think it makes it a better bill and I will certainly support that. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR LINDSAY PRESIDING

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Actually, it's just a question to Senator...I'm not sure who to ask at this point. I'm going to ask Senator Maurstad, and it's to confirm, at least on the record, what we talked about off the floor, to a degree. Actually, it was on the floor, it wasn't off the floor, but it's over there on the floor. And that is, Senator Maurstad, the way that the law is now, I know that if somebody is caught in a legal battle that may have nothing to do with a campaign or anything to do with the campaign that you cannot use campaign funds for legal fees. And I go back to issues that we've had senators involved in on petition drives that there might have been some alleged irregularities, they had legal bills. They may, in fact, have been exonerated but they couldn't use campaign funds. So, I guess, my question is, is, in fact, it legal that if there is a campaign challenge, such as Senator Byars had with Mr. Korslund, I believe is who it was, is it legal that they can use campaign funds for that legal defense, in your judge...in your opinion?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Senator, it's my understanding that both Claire's dad, one of our Pages here, and Senator Byars used campaign funds for legal fees or expenses related to that election contest. Now I know that only from the perspective of reviewing their disclosure forms that they filed with the Accountability and Disclosure and seeing those included in those forms.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, and I appreciate that and I'll take that on face value because I honestly don't know and will