

SENATOR HALL: Well, maybe with an amendment we will discuss it. But I...and I take it for granted that you don't share my concern in this area, just by your response. But, Senator Beutler, I mean, it just appears to me that I guess then there's no effort to ever forgive a loan. If I'm the...if I'm the individual who made the loan myself, to my own committee, why would I ever want to forgive a loan? I know I could get 8 percent on it when I paid it back, like some candidates do, but, I mean, the question is, would you be amenable to an exemption for individuals?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I think it's so important to get some funding for this whole act for a number of different reasons that I'm willing to be flexible in terms of how this is structured to the degree that it's...that there is some logic to it and to the degree that it leaves something taxed that will raise the money. As you know, there's been a long history on this.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Beutler, I don't disagree with you on that. You know that. And I...but I don't believe that this methodology is the proper way. I would rather increase the General Fund appropriation and take it out of so that the general public understands where it's coming from because what we're doing here is basically we're taxing, for purposes of the fund, the individuals who participate, through their dollars, to pay for a small group of people to pay for the campaigns rather than the general population through the use of the General Fund. And I know that's a mix in this proposal, roughly about a third, based on the one sheet that I think I saw. It was one-third of the total of 150,000 that's roughly going to be available. And my problem is, is that it's a very small group of people who are going to help finance this. Those that choose to participate in representative government through their campaign contributions, while others who are...derive the benefit from that same form of government don't pay. And I think it's very narrowly focused merely to try to find a way to fund this type of campaign finance reform, if you will. And I just...I have just a philosophical problem with that. I do not disagree with the fact that there should be more funding in here, and you well know that, Senator Beutler, and I strongly support funding it completely out of General Fund dollars, to a certain extent, but I cannot support the type of proposal that's embodied in LB 548 because I really believe that it is, it becomes a means by which a few people, and I understand that special interest groups...