

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...are those who take, I guess, part in the process, at least in terms of our environment here. They make, some of them, very large campaign contributions in the aggregate, all the candidates, but...and their tax dollars, in effect, would be...or their contributions would, in effect, be taxed. I have a...I just have a problem with that small pool of individuals helping to finance the entire program here where the greater good, I think, would be served if the overall population, the overall tax base would be used to provide the necessary funding. And that's the main thrust for my opposition to this type of a proposal. I, again, rise in support of the Maurstad amendment and would urge you to reject the Bernard-Stevens amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body. I would give my time to Senator Hall if he would like to have it.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you. I...thank you, Mr. President, members, thank you, Senator Hudkins. I can count to three and so can Senator Hudkins. Thank you. The issue, again, is one of who spends whose money. I mean, this is, I guess, a question you have to think about in terms of what happens to those special interest groups that I started to talk about and never quite finished because I moved on to another uncomplete or incomplete sentence. The issue of those special interest groups who support one type of candidate but not another, their contributions in the form of the tax that's levied against them would then be eligible to any of the other pool of candidates that would be funded through the program, and I just think that that, more than anything, at least in the case of some, maybe it won't, maybe it will, who know? We'll probably see because I don't see the kind of opposition for this that I...that I thought there might be, and that's one of the reasons I came out of the Chair just to, I guess, be a thorn in the side for Senator Beutler this afternoon a little bit. But I truly think that there are people out there that do not want to pay and see an income tax paid on their campaign contribution. When they make that contribution to a candidate or to a committee they make it for purposes of allowing their support to be used not to