

little discouraging and I'm sure the public is discouraged. And I'm sure we can do better and we can do better without a whole lot of (inaudible)...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...and without any money being actually expended. And so I hope you will reject this particular amendment because it is not constructive in any realistic sense.

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

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I rise in opposition to the Bernard-Stevens amendment as I am not opposed to the act itself, the finance limitation provision. And, Senator Beutler, I think, understands that. It is this proposal, 548, that puts in place an income tax on campaign contributions that I happen to oppose. I would support General Fund appropriations for that act. I would support some other measure that might do that. I've got...I started to draft an amendment that allowed for a percentage of...it's very sparse in here, maybe it's time to adjourn for the day, Mr. Speaker, but since I've already spoken, I can't make that motion and I will just rise again in opposition to the Bernard-Stevens amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, and I understand Senator Beutler's frustration and, again, if you go back to the record on when we actually passed the legislation a few years ago, I voted against it. I made it very clear why I voted against it, is that it was a hoax on the public. The Legislature was pretending that we were going to have campaign limits, but we didn't fund it. And I look at that as being absolutely unethical. I mean, if we're going to pass something, you fund it, particularly if we're talking about campaign finance. So when you promise people, say, boy, we're doing campaign finance and we're putting limits on that, boy, aren't we doing the good job, oh, by the way, a technical problem, we haven't found any funding yet but we're going to work on it. Well, we worked on it for two years last year and Senator Beutler tried every fee he could find to attach as amendments and it's just like Senator Hall's objection to this particular proposal on LB 548, everyone came forward and said,