

of politics, and educating people in the process of government. I think there are a whole number of very positive effects that can come from a well-designed campaign expenditure limitation law, and I think that this Legislature, when it passed that law three or four years ago, did the right thing. I think it spent a lot of time on it at that point in time and worked out a very good version of this law. It is an extremely creative piece of legislation in the sense that it stands an excellent chance of withstanding constitutional scrutiny in an area where the Constitution has made it almost impossible for us to act without using public funding. And so we have actually devised a method whereby probably, by and large, and maybe entirely, simply the existence of a possible source of public funding will result in campaign expenditure limitations and none, no, or little public funding. It is a mechanism that really should be tried, and really could have a very beneficial effect on campaign politics in Nebraska. So I hope you will not take the radical approach, not experimenting, and giving this law a chance. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL PRESIDING

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Wehrbein, your light is next on the Bernard-Stevens amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I just rise to support...Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to support the Bernard-Stevens amendment. I struggled long and hard, I've not ever been a strong supporter of public financing of campaigns, and as I have seen what happens at the national level for president, I think it is stretched beyond what most of us would like to have it be, and I think this is an opportunity at the state level to make it clear-cut that we don't really want to go into that in Nebraska. I understand the concern about limiting the cost of campaigns and that is one method for this to be done the way it is being approached, but deep down, I am still not really convinced that we have to limit or should limit the campaigns of what one wants to spend in a campaign in this state, and so I think we just as well be up front about it and go ahead and repeal this and move on. And I understand Senator Beutler's frustration. He strongly supports the concept of public financing or a limit on campaigns, at least, and this is one way of doing that, and I understand his frustration of not being able to find a funding source. I don't have an alternative funding source either. I am strongly opposed to General Fund support of this, and it has always been my belief, perhaps naively though, that a good