

amounts to let's choose how we are going to finance it, and I don't think you have the campaigns finance it and it is not necessarily the campaigns, it's the people who contribute to those campaigns, finance a great portion of the public financing aspect of the finance limitation act that we passed in I believe it was '92. I don't want us to repeal that statute today. Now if it proves after a couple of different attempts to look for alternative funding mechanisms, that they are not there, and that there isn't the support, maybe at that point 548 goes away, and we leave the General Fund appropriation that is out there that is in the budget, we look at the other fees and things that are going to fund it, and we come back and try again. But I want to...I am not ready to throw in the towel just yet, as Senator Bernard-Stevens would do with his amendment. And that's what he does, he throws in the towel, not only on 548, but on the entire Campaign Finance Limitation Act. I would rather see us do a General Fund appropriation, let all the people participate. If that is what the will of the people is, is that they want to have the general population limit to a certain extent campaign finance, then it ought to come out of General Funds that are collected throughout the state, not just limit it to those individuals who make campaign contributions as 548 would have us do. With that, I would...

SENATOR LINDSAY: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...urge you to reject Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment as it sits today. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Bromm, Chambers, Vrtiska, and Preister.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Members of the Legislature, I think we are making a grievous mistake and that we are out of touch with reality, if we do not think that the public out there wants campaign finance reform. They do want campaign finance reform. And if we ignore them, we ignore them at our peril. It surprises me, frankly, that in a day and age when term limitations has been so recently passed, and I believe term limitations as it applies to this body was one of the worst political developments of this century, it was a grievous error in terms of...in terms of curtailing the institutional memory of an institution that doesn't have enough memory to begin with. But we have it, and why do we have it? We have it because the public lost faith in our inability...in our ability to