

discipline ourselves, and the public can lose confidence in us again, and these things can go to initiative and referendum. We are out of touch with reality. We are not recognizing that initiative and referendum is there, is becoming easier and easier. We now have paid petitioners. If we do not get our act together, our act will be gotten together for us but perhaps in a way that is not as intelligent as we, who've had experience in the area, could do. We owe it to the public to apply our experience in these areas. Now Senator Chambers suggests that there is no way to chase down all the crooks. Well, in the first place, this is not about crooks. This is just about what the fair rules should be in this particular enterprise. But even if you are talking about crooks, I don't think there is any historical basis for saying that. Would Senator Chambers suggest that we have no laws against bribery? That there are not...that civil service reform didn't bring positive changes to the American political system? The IRS rules, themselves, complicated as they may be, result in most people paying most of their taxes. It is the best tax system in the world. Now the Italians have very few rules, don't collect nearly as much income tax as we do, for the reason they don't have rules. You up the ante, if you make the cost too high, people are going to start abiding by the rules. There is just no historic basis for saying...for saying that we should do nothing at all because you can never chase down all the crooks. But, fundamentally, there is an opportunity here to do a rational, thoughtful thing which will have a very real effect on campaign reform, and I really hope you will take it seriously because I really think that it would be an error not to in terms of getting a grip on our own destiny as an institution. We continually put things out of our hands and into other people's hands for the reason that confidence is not here in us, and we don't want to do that again. We don't want to do that again. Repeal this act and it would be a major blunder in terms of public relations with the people of this state. Thank you.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President, fellow senators. I rise to oppose the Bernard-Stevens amendment and to support Senator Beutler's efforts. His efforts have been long and have extended way beyond this legislative year in trying to solve what I think is a legitimate problem in this area. I don't...I don't understand, I guess, what the fear is or what the lack of interest is in doing something in this particular area. All we