

who is spending that kind of money is doing it in a couple of ways; one, perhaps, negative in using a lot of money for advertising just to make the whole process seem bad and do a lot of negative campaigning, which people are certainly opposed to, and the other is that they are taking that money and, rightly or wrongly, that there is a perception they are taking that money from somebody and that there is implied then that something is being given back for that money. Mr. President, could I have a gavel.

SENATOR LINDSAY: (Gavel.)

SENATOR PREISTER: I really didn't need that but I was just thinking that we hadn't really had that happen this session, and that in the past, Brad Ashford had done that regularly, and I just kind of thought about him for the moment.

SENATOR LINDSAY: And I appreciate it, Senator Preister, because I never got to hit that thing before.

SENATOR PREISTER: Well, good, and a little levity is always welcome, but I think the importance of campaign finance reform is there, and I appreciate what Senator Beutler has attempted to do. I also stand in opposition to Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment, and I would like to ask him a question and possibly two, if he would be so kind as to respond.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you respond to a question?

SENATOR PREISTER: Senator Bernard-Stevens, right now we have before us AM.202, which, as the board says, is on page 1282. Has that been a bill introduced this session as a bill that has had a public hearing?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes and no. There were two bills into the Legislature, Senator Preister, one that went to the Revenue Committee, which is 548, and the other bill dealing with the issue of the campaign finances went to the Government Committee. So the issue has been before actually two committee in various forms. So this exact amendment, no, but the issue before us, two committee, two separate hearings.

SENATOR PREISTER: The issue was before us, two committees, two separate hearings, you say though it wasn't this exact