

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Now a corporation could contribute any amount that it wants to to one of these campaigns. Is that correct?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: That is correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that could become the basis on which we would determine the maximum amount of loans the campaign committee could receive. Is that correct?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: That is correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What this bill is trying to do, if I understand...well, let me ask it as a question. Is this bill trying mainly to limit the amount of loans or to prohibit the recouping of this interest and these other things, or is each thing equally important?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: It is designed to do both, both are equally important, but if I may briefly explain. And I would like to...I would like to say that I am very grateful for the committee amendments. In the process of doing this as my first piece of legislation, I found it desirable to have it amended, took the amendments to the committee. I'm very appreciative of the work which the committee and its staff did. The bill...the bill is designed specifically, Senator Chambers, and members of the body, to particularly prohibit the situation which has been evolving of late wherein those who have not raised monies, so to speak, from the public but are people of means, simply utilized their personal wealth to leverage their opponent out of the race and then, having successfully done so, using being clothed in their office, which they may not yet have taken the oath for, they begin the solicitation or they can begin the solicitation of monies to repay those loans, so that we are basically saying the Supreme Court has said that every individual is free to use their own money as a matter of free speech. This bill does nothing to violate that but you must use it, not leverage it and repay yourself after you have gained the public trust.

SPEAKER WITHEM PRESIDING

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Hall, followed by Senators Beutler, Robinson, Chambers and Brashear.