

money that's allowed to be loaned under the bill?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: No. No, it permits the payback of the amount but it begins, for the first time, to put some rational, I believe, rational relationship between the amount of the loan and the viability of the candidacy and its popular support, based upon contributions being the measure.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Brashear, you have three minutes left. Do you want to continue?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Speaker, thank you, only to urge the adoption of the committee amendments by the body. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you. Senator Fisher.

SENATOR FISHER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask Senator Brashear a question and the reasoning.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Brashear.

SENATOR FISHER: I...I...the 15,000 I can go with, now I have a little problem with why don't you get to pay the interest? I mean, I kind of feel like I'm picked on because you pay for a billboard, you pay that but the compensation...

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Well, Senator Fisher, you will note that the committee answered one of your two objections and now maybe you can be the 42 nd cosponsor. In the...the payment of interest...their prohibition against the payment of interest is simply to see that the candidate has made that investment. It's to endeavor to put some purity into the act. While it may not be a matter of concern every day to every citizen of the State of Nebraska, the fact of the matter is, and I'm casting aspersions on no one, it's...I don't believe it's appropriate to repay interest, particularly as Nebraska law is now constituted at the highest lawful rate, when that money has been solicited from public spirited citizens supporting your candidacy. I'm talking about the law now would permit the payment of 16 or 18 percent interest. That's unseemly. I suspect we could get a unanimous vote on that.

SENATOR FISHER: I would agree with that, but shouldn't there be