

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. As you can probably guess, I've had a tremendous change of heart on this issue since last Friday and I would like to ask that that motion be withdrawn.

SPEAKER WITHEM: It is withdrawn. Anything further, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend the bill. (FA92 appears on pages 1322-23 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this amendment was intended to be introduced by Senator Hall, but he can't make it here this morning for a period of time, so I wanted to afford you the opportunity to vote on an alternative that Senator Hall thought more appropriate in terms of how campaign finance limitations should be funded and that was to take the money, a small amount of money directly from General Funds. And so what the amendment before you does this morning is to strike all of the provisions relating to the taxing of campaign committees and to simply make it simple, no additional paperwork, no nothing, just fund \$50,000 a year for two years to finance just the legislative races the next time around. So it would be \$50,000 one year, \$50,000 in the following year and we would be done with it. That's all the amendment does and if you believe that General Funds are probably the more straightforward and simplest way to go, I'm amenable to either alternative. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Wesely, followed by Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I have not spoken that much on this piece of legislation, but let me add my support to Senator Beutler's amendment and to his bill. You know we spent a lot of time on this last week talking about the question of the tax and that approach but we didn't really get at the heart of what Senator Beutler is trying to address here and that is the question of how we diminish the power of the dollar, the power of the purse in a sense in influencing campaigns and elections. Having now served for 17 years, having