

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I don't think there is any point to discussing further today the financing aspects of campaign finance reform because I don't know where you all are from that vote and I'm going to need to go back and talk to everybody and there are 11 people missing, so I don't know where those people are, so I don't want to waste your time further on the funding aspect of campaign finance limitation. But what I do want to ask you to do or to consider doing is this. The amendment up before you right now strikes all funding provisions, okay? And it puts into the bill certain technical clean-up matters, a couple of them are a little bit beyond technical, but I will talk about them. But they are clean-up matters that are at least designed, if we're going to have this go into effect two years from now for the legislative races, and it will be in effect of course because it's not being repealed, at least get the bill, get the provisions of the bill in as coherent a shape as we possibly can and then ask you to advance that to Select File without any funding mechanisms in it and probably I will ask you one more time on Select to consider a funding mechanism. But I hope you will at least allow that if we're going to have this bill in place then it should technically be in as good a form as it can be put in and that's the purpose of the amendment that is currently before you. That amendment is in the process of being copied and will be passed out to you very shortly if you have not already received it. I would also say in addition I need to let you know that this particular set of amendments in its principal part was certainly before the Government Committee this year in the form of another bill. The Government Committee neither rejected nor advanced the bill for reasons that I'm not all together familiar with. I didn't have anybody ask me for changes in it so I'm not sure what the hesitancy of the Government Committee was. It may have been that this bill was up before the Legislature anyway and, therefore, there was a vehicle on the floor for discussing these matters. The amendment seems large because of the way some things had to be redrafted, but essentially it does, it addresses two principal aspects of campaign finance limitation that I want to point out to you and then it has a number of smaller changes that follow from those two principal changes and a couple of minor technical things that deal with advice given to us by the Accountability Commission. But basically one of the things that the campaign limitation bill does as currently formulated is to limit the spending in the primary election to 50 percent of the total overall expenditure limitation, but it does not go ahead and follow through with that with respect to