

that is something that is not going to be found, unless we use General Fund appropriations. General Fund appropriations, when I came to the Legislature, only four budget cycles ago, a little more than that, the General Fund was about a third of what it is today, about a third. When we talk about public financing, public financing of private citizens who are running for public office, we are talking about primarily using tax money. I think the pool of resources of tax money in the State of Nebraska sets that it is not the will of the people nor should it be the will of the Legislature to use those funds for campaign finance reform. If people have decided and want to spend inordinate sums of money, to run for public office, let them. If it is an issue with the voters, it would be an issue in that campaign. There are legislative races expenditures that are mind-boggling to me, that anyone feels it is necessary to spend that amount of money in whatever fashion to acquire this office to represent the people, and then we go out and we promise to be conservative or whatever it is that we promise to the people, when we are going around to the local meetings. Let's...let's cut to the chase. Let's do away with the hypocrisy. We are not going to use General Fund tax money to fund private citizens in election campaigns in Nebraska. I agree with Senator Bernard-Stevens, rarely, but in this case I do. We are not going to do it. We are not going to find a way to do it. If we would, we would create a fund in with the citizens could voluntarily send in campaign contributions to be distributed to whomever a board or commission decided. The folks out there aren't going to respond to that. They are not going to respond to voluntary contributions other than to candidates for office, whatever those candidates are, who they are in general agreement with. Let's leave the system the way it is. Let's return next year and clean from the statute books what I thought at the time we enacted it was a good idea that's proven to be...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...unworkable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I want to touch just a bit more on what I was discussing when my time ran out the first time. I don't like the idea of the Legislature being put in a position of seeming to be working a con on the public or running a shell game. Whenever ethics are