

the next time this bill is up on General File. This bill failed to advance on General File, so it has fallen to the end of the, as I understand it, the General File senator priority bill list, and there is some speculation that it may not get onto...get up again, but if it does, when it does, we will be considering the Bernard-Stevens amendment again instead of the actual bill, itself, and regardless of what some senators have said as not being good etiquette, I've noticed several, at least in the last three years, breeches of etiquette here in the Legislature, although I am not going to bring them all up, so I am not sure etiquette is definitely the concern that I have this morning. More of the concern that I have this morning is whether we need to reconsider the Bernard-Stevens amendment and put an end to this nonsense of public funds of campaign finance. And I know Senator Beutler is sincere in wanting to do something about this, but all of the brainpower in this Legislature I don't believe is going to solve the perceived problem of some on campaign financing and wanting reform in campaign financing. I think there are some problems that you have to accept that the government in passing a law just can't be the answer to it. It just won't do it, that sometimes you just have to put it in the court of the individual who is running for the office to make that decision on whether they want to spend less money or more money. And judging by the elections in Omaha alone this year for the Legislature, I would venture to say every single candidate probably spent over \$50,000, or definitely close to it, on those races, and it will only continue to go up, and I know that's a concern for some. But...and I think it is more the inequity that is the concern, not the spending limits, and we will continue to discuss this and try to come up with a solution, but I don't believe the solution is public funds. That's why I need to reconsider the Bernard-Stevens amendment this year. We will have next year's election cycles coming up. We can still discuss this before the election. It will be in this shape unless Senator Beutler pulls the bill. Then I will reintroduce a bill to do away with it, but I am not sure if that bill can come out of committee. It was...I tried in the years I was on the committee, when Senator Schimek was the Chairman, to discuss this, and I didn't feel that we even had the bill...the votes there. It is difficult to get these out of committee. So you are left with amending to a bill that addresses the same statutes, and that is where we are at here. We have an opportunity to do what I believe the majority of people on this floor want to do but weren't here to do, and that's to adopt the Bernard-Stevens amendment at some point this year or early next