

last year. The bill was discussed on the twenty-fourth, twenty-third, twenty-fourth, and twenty-seventh of March last year, Mr. President. I do have amendments pending.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Just made a very split-second decision up here I want to announce. Hopefully there'll be no problem with this. But all of these bills that were '95 senator priority bills, whether they be on General File or Select File, were, in fact, debated last session which means we have had the ten minute opening. But because it has been the full interim, I am going to interpret the rule to allow for the introducer to, to introduce the bill. And for that reason, Senator Beutler, you're recognized for a ten minute opening if you, hopefully you don't need that long, but there you are.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, thank you. Members of the Legislature, you may recall the campaign finance reform bill, the one that we're dealing with presently, began as an exploration for funding, a search for the proper mechanism to fund this in the event that some funding was necessary under the mechanisms of the bill. Then on down the line, unable to gain a majority support for any of a number of funding mechanisms that I tried, you may recall we switched the bill so as to pick up and correct a couple of flaws in the Campaign Finance Reform Act. And that's where it sits now. But at this particular point in time, with the developments in the field, so to speak, I feel no compunction to correct those flaws at this particular point in time. They are flaws that are not critical, not debilitating in all probability and in most all scenarios that might come up this time around. And so what I intend to do is to talk a little bit about the Campaign Finance Reform Act and what has, what has happened just for a minute or two to give other people an opportunity to say what they would like to say at this point in time about the matter. And then pass over the bill, or request, at least, unanimous consent to pass over the bill. What has happened since has been, in fact, a remarkable and splendid effort by all of the state senators to voluntarily abide by the limitation. And as you may have already noted, twenty-one of the twenty-five incumbents who are running for reelection have already declared and agreed to abide by the limitation. And I'm hopeful that by the filing date of February 15 that perhaps, with a little luck, maybe all twenty-five will have declared and agreed to abide. If that happens, I think the state of Nebraska should give us some kind