

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator, I don't have a note, but we can go to the second one.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah, I'd like to withdraw the first one.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: First amendment is withdrawn. Senator Withem, to open on the second amendment. (See AM4025 found on page 1902 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, I'd like to comment on this amendment and then I probably will...well, I will not pursue it because of the lateness of the hour, but...and because it is an issue that really deserves probably to go through the committee hearing process and hear individuals who wish to come in, may wish to justify the status quo, although in many ways I see status quo on this issue indefensible. What this amendment would do, it would require any organization which contributes to a ballot issue or a candidate in Nebraska of excess of...I believe the number is \$10,000 in the amendment as it's drafted, to file a report with our Accountability and Disclosure Commission indicating the source of their funds. And I am not apologizing for this or beating around the bush. The main target for this is the U.S. Term Limits organization and I think this is a matter of disclosure and not whether or not you like the idea of term limits, but whether or not you like the idea of being able to know who it is that is contributing huge sums of money to influence the votes of people in Nebraska and, after all, that is the purpose of accountability and disclosure, for campaign contributions to be reported for those candidates or committees receiving those, to have to stand up and say, yes, this is the source of my funding or these are the people that want this change or this candidate elected and be able to look the voters in the eye and make a response to them. Currently, however, the current situation is, and we'll go back to the 1994 election there was an organization, Nebraska Term Limits Committee. Nebraska Term Limits Committee received some contributions, I believe it looks to me like about \$287,000, close to \$300,000 in campaign contributions, and we know from that that an individual by the name of Hal Daub contributed \$500, that an individual by the name of Norman Christensen (phonetic) contributed \$200, that the National Taxpayers Union contributed \$5,000, and that an organization called U.S. Term Limits contributed \$260,000 of the \$287,000 that were contributed in Nebraska. We don't have the