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FLOOR DEBATE

January 27, 2004 LB 762

involved to make it the most serious kind of endeavor that it can be. We all know there are interim studies and there are interim studies, but I think if you go to appointing a special committee and you include the Chair of the Government Committee on it, you include the Chair of the Executive Board, you include the Speaker, that you will give it some status that will, in turn, incline the effort towards the serious. And that's what we need. I mean, we need to go one direction or the other on this, and the direction that Senator Brashear is suggesting...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...is the wrong one.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Erdman.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I rise in opposition of the bracket motion, but I think we're going to have the debate regardless of whether we have the vote on that. I do rise from a perspective. The perspective is, is that CFLA will fix some things but it won't fix all. Senator Beutler has made that clear. The reality, though, that I think is again lost, I think Senator Schrock hit the nail on the head, was the people of the state of Nebraska will decide. People will decide whether or not they agree a candidate has tried to buy the office or not, whether they agree that the individual is fit, for whatever reason. And in my particular case, Senator Beutler and I have discussed this in the past, CFLA didn't matter in our race because we both abided; however, I spent somewhere around \$12,000, \$14,000 to get elected, plus some unpaid expenses of mileage that was ending up costing me around a total of \$20,000. My opponent hit the limit, had an independent committee, and so the reality was, is that the people looked at that and said, well, you spent that much money and got elected; that's pretty amazing we saw your stuff wherever we saw it. Because the reality was, and what Senator Foley also pointed out, is you've got to get the people involved. And I was looking at the stats from the last few elections in my legislative district. We've had over 50 percent voter turnout in most of these counties. In fact, one county in a primary, in an election, they had over a 90 percent voter