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

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I really appreciate the words that Senator Bromm said in trying to bring us together to find a solution and either we bracket the bill or we eliminate the whole Campaign Finance Limitation Act. His suggestion, as Senator Beutler echoed, was to get us together over the interim to look at what we can do to improve the act. I think it is worthy of improving and the time it would take to do that. So I think that's a solution and a way to move from here forward. Having said that, Mr. President, I would yield the remainder of my time to Senator Beutler, if he would like it.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Beutler, you have four minutes and ten seconds.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Preister, thank you very much. I wanted to pick up on a comment that Senator Smith made that somehow, in order to get public funds, in the event that that was triggered, there would be some kind of race to the coffers and there wouldn't be enough money for everybody. Let's go back, that's just not true, and let's go back for a moment and remind ourselves as to how these races are included and which races are included and why they are and are not included, because the primary consideration is financial. You may recall that when we first started this act, the only races that were covered were legislative races. And then it was determined and we put into law a mechanism whereby the Accountability Commission would include additional races under the campaign finance law as money became available in amounts that, with some reasonable certitude, would cover anything that might happen in a race. And so it started out with \$150,000. The legislative races were covered. Then, in the next election cycle, we picked up the Public Service Commission, the Board of Regents, and the State Board of Education, because the amount in the fund was increasing. By the way, the amount in the fund has continued to increase and increase because, notwithstanding the two expenditures, relatively speaking, very few expenditures have been made compared to the money available in the fund. The fund