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FLOOR DEBATE

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have effectively removed the checkoff from the income tax returns across Nebraska, it costs more to remove the checkoff than it does generate during a given year. It generates, as I said, approximately \$8,000 a year, and it costs \$10,000 to remove that, but I just offer that as an aside to the basic fact that I believe we can take almost \$400,000 from this Cash Fund and not only help the budget deficit but I believe bring our state policy into compliance with the state constitution, as you can see from the handout. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. You've heard the opening on AM3246. Mr. Clerk, a motion.

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to amend. (FA1636, Legislative Journal page 1377.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, to open on your amendment to AM3246.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, what we're supposed to be about today, I think, is balancing our budget. This amendment has nothing to do whatsoever with balancing the budget because the money doesn't go into the General Fund. The money goes into the school fund and that, of course, has nothing at all to do with our budget. So, Senator Smith is using the budget debate to make a point that he wants to make about the Campaign Finance Reform Act, and his opinion with regard to the constitutionality of putting money where we've put it for the last 10 or 12 years, however long the act has been in existence. We've always done this the same way. He may have one opinion that says it should go to the Permanent School Fund, but the opinion of the Accountability Commission itself is that what's happening right now is perfectly legitimate. So it's not about the budget at all. It's using the budget to do something that you would be very offended if the Appropriations Committee did, and that is taking all the money away from a program without changing the statutes related to the program. You'd be crazy in here if the Appropriations Committee started wiping out funds but didn't change the statute, and that's what Senator Smith is doing. He is just taking all the money away from the Campaign Finance Reform Act,