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FLOOR DEBATE

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not all of it but most of it, and doing that without going back and making statutory changes. We've had some intense discussion on the Campaign Finance Reform Act and I understand that everybody is not in agreement, but this is not the way to go about it and, in addition, Senator Schimek and the Government Committee, which Senator Smith sits on, if they're agreeable, will be doing an interim study on the whole question because I, for one at least, have put in a request that they do that interim study. So, one, it's not about the budget; two, it's a completely inappropriate way of going about taking away the funds of an agency; thirdly, it betrays all of those candidates out there who have abided...who have agreed to abide by the Campaign Finance Reform Act. The monies he's taking are the monies that are there to guarantee that if their opponents go crazy spending money, they're not going to be left in the dust. And I think again, about 98 percent of the candidates, for all effective purposes, have agreed to abide by the Campaign Finance Reform Act. So it's a little late in the process to say, we're taking away the money. It's also a little disingenuous of Senator Smith to suggest that taking away the money doesn't change anything because, as you all will remember, the Accountability Commission decides each cycle which races are covered, and in making that...and makes that decision based on the amount in the fund that's there to guarantee an appropriate amount to cover a particular race. So when he takes away most of the money, it effectively means that the law will apply to fewer races. And I've got nine or ten amendments on this, not because I'm trying to stifle debate, but because this is obviously not about the budget but about something completely different and is an appropriate...inappropriate way of addressing the problem. So what the amendment does is suggest that \$10,000 be transferred from the fund to the Permanent School Fund. If Senator Smith wants a pound of flesh, I'll give him a pound of flesh, but the second pound is going to be harder, the third pound is going to be even harder, and it's just going to get harder and harder, because this is not a very appropriate way, in my opinion, to attack a problem. If we all, if we all had amendments to go in and wipe out the funds of any program we didn't like because we didn't like it, without going back and changing and asking our colleagues to change the statute, this budget discussion could go on for a long, long