

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 15, 2006 LB 188

talked about it; if he didn't have enough time to open, why, I'd give him my time, and then he'd give me back some time. It's a nice...that's one of the things I like about the body. It works. Now, Senator Beutler is more theoretical than I am, so I'm going to engage in plain speak. I've had a number of you talk to me, and you've been concerned that I was trying to, by this methodology that we have developed, that I was going to endeavor to repeal the campaign...the Accountability and Disclosure Commission Act...or, Accountability and Disclosure Act. That's not so. Mr. Daley and whomever and whatever will continue to be in power, in place, and have their job. You will still continue to have your gifts and expenditures and sums reported and disclosed and controlled and all those things that we have visited upon ourselves. What this arrangement contemplates is that we will finally put ourselves out of our misery with regard to the Campaign Finance Limitation Act. Now, Senator Beutler is...does a good job with all of the theory, and I understand the good motives that he had with this act. But let's kind of boil it down and strip it away. I've always referred to this act, no disrespect to Senator Beutler personally, as the incumbent protection act. You see, in our great country, we have a First Amendment that talks about the right of free speech. And you can spend your money, your money, and you can raise contributors' money under any constitutional scheme and spend that money to advocate your ideas. And that's why you sometimes have people who win office by spending more money and you have people who lose because they can't spend the money or raise the money. You know, there is some truth, if nobody will give you any money for your ideas, maybe you ought to go back and think about them. There is some basis for good people with good ideas who have the energy, the ambition, the enthusiasm, the ability to go out and raise money from people, and those people will become engaged, and buy ownership. Everybody doesn't have their daddy give them a fortune. You can simply put together the organization, go out and campaign, and win. But you see, that's threatening, that's threatening to the status quo, that's threatening to the establishment, who has a well-groomed, well-curried candidate that they want to keep in office because that candidate does...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.