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FLOOR DEBATE

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really debate with you substantively, so we don't know whether what we're hearing on the public airwaves is right or wrong. There's more to this whole exercise than laws and limitations and regulation and a bureaucracy to try and control things, and then the fallout and the litigation. And I'll say for the last time, I believe if you adopted this amendment, I believe that someday, sometime, someone will challenge this, and it will not stand. It has stood because nobody wanted to invest that kind of time and effort. But the courts are still the courts, and that's where we go for the final decisions. That's where Attorney General Bruning should go in support...if he has integrity, in support of the Opinion he issued to me in 2003 that said this money shouldn't be in this fund because it violates the constitution of the state of Nebraska. And I'm not going to yield to an opinion by the Accountability and Disclosure Commission. Guess why? Sometimes they're just not quite correct on what their opinions are. Sometimes they really don't understand...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: ...issues like concurrent jurisdiction and double jeopardy and the role of the courts in relationship to the role of commissions that have first primary responsibility and statutory authority to enforce rules and regulations. But the law is not fast always, and it sometimes takes time and more than just somebody's opinion and more than just noise to get to the truth. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You're now recognized for your time, Senator Brashear. Senator Brashear waives his time. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I used to serve on the Government Committee and be on the front lines of this issue. And certainly, it was a great experience, and caused me to look further into the specific issues of campaign finance. We have to come before the issue and say, where do we stand? Do we stand in favor of using public funds for campaigns? I would argue that that is what this issue is mostly about, because we still have a way of regulating campaigns through disclosure, disclosure of where that money came from.