

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

February 15, 2006 LB 188

act.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler and Senator Redfield. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Brashear, followed by Senator Friend.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I have tried to contain my interest, in order that this debate could progress, and I too think it's been a great debate, and I'm glad for the understandings and the accommodations that all of us have made, in order that the debate could take place. But from time to time, people mention things that really need to be answered or commented upon, and so I've made a few notes and I'm going to do those, and then I'll back into the corner. And I'm trying not to be personal, Senator Schimek, I agree with you. But gosh, sometimes others bring it up, you know, so I'm going to answer a couple things. It's like the general, theoretical statement that we're going to control all independent expenditures, as if we have all controlled independent expenditures in the past and will control them in the future. Well, I wasn't born under a rock, and I don't live under a rock, and I don't think any of you do, either. Senator Foley had to overcome independent expenditures in his race, and the act we've got now, and nothing in this act...the act we've got now didn't do a thing for him, and what's in this amendment won't do a thing for him. He just had to overcome it. That's politics. It's a...you know, it's a rough-and-tumble sport. It doesn't have to be mud wrestling, but it isn't tea and crumpets. Senator Erdman took on an incumbent. The incumbent used independent expenditures. He had to overcome it. The act we have didn't do a thing for him, and the act, as written the way Senator Beutler wants to do it, won't do a thing for him, either. And if you're not living under a rock, come talk to me and I'll tell you about the independent expenditures and the various methodologies that people are plotting right now. And I notice that Senator Beutler said, Omaha money can't do thus and so, as if, big, bad Omaha. Well, independent expenditures can occur other places in this state, and people are talking about independent expenditures and independent committies right now. Please, let's get real. And Senator Beutler, to answer your question, Accountability and Disclosure Commission is a good