

PRESIDENT: Senator Proud

SENATOR PROUD: Well I have a question for Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: OK

SENATOR PROUD: I don't object to any enforceable reporting law, but I do object to unenforceable reporting laws because they just tend to promote irresponsible candidates. Now as I understand it you can not make a contribution of over a thousand dollars by one individual to the candidate, is that right Senator Warner?

SENATOR WARNER: Yes.

SENATOR PROUD: Well then a....

SENATOR WARNER: Well Senator Proud if you feel that section, I suggest that you could move to strike 17 from the bill.

SENATOR PROUD: Yeah, well I would like to get a little more information first. What is to prevent a person from giving a candidate a thousand dollars cash and not reporting it. How would you ever know that?

SENATOR WARNER: I think that you would face that problem at any point I suppose and I don't like to hang my hat on what has happened at the Watergate, but I would assume that no one thought that they were going to get caught when they did what they did either, Senator Proud. The mere fact that they did and as is true of all laws it is the penalty that creates the honesty. I don't know of anybody voluntarily pay income tax, I think a great deal of people at least do so because they know the penalty is severe. The penalty in this bill is removal from office. If someone wants to gamble to avoid reporting as required knowing then full well that perhaps not in every instance but there is always a chance that it is going to become known that he could then be removed from office even after having taken office. That is a safeguard.

SENATOR PROUD: As a matter of fact though Senator he it seems to me that you are comparing oranges and apples, Watergate is one thing and the income tax is another and the politics is still another. The point is that if one individual gives another a thousand dollars in cash there is no way in the world to find that out unless one of them squeals. It is just as simple as that and so the unscrupulous candidate and the donor engage in this and the candidates perhaps has a much better chance of getting elected than the honest fellow who follows the law, so I don't think that there is any chance of this ever being effectively enforced and I follow your suggestion and move that it be rejected.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Are we discussing the amendment?

PRESIDENT: We are still discussing the Warner amendment to Section 17.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well would you dispose of that I want to make a motion to indefinitely postpone the bill because I'm not in favor of cleaning up politics.

SENATOR MARSH: I pass