

SENATOR FELLMAN: This is an amendment to strike from this bill the....Mr. President, members of the legislature this is an amendment to strike from the bill a limitation of contributions of up to a thousand dollars. As the bill now reads no person or organization or entity can contribute more than a thousand dollars. I would like to point out to you some of the problems apparent in this limit. But before I do so, I would like to say personally that I am very much in favor of limitations of campaign spending and I think that this legislature made a mistake a few minutes ago in turning down this tax check off. No one was required to do this, this would have been voluntary. I think that it would have been good way to put money into the political process. I am also in favor of another bill, which is coming along way behind this one to limit the amount of dollars that can be spend by a candidate. This bill in its reporting provisions is good. I think that this bill will do a lot of harm in limiting contributions of more than a thousand dollars and I'll tell you why. Under this bill if the Methodist Church, or the Catholic Church was interested in a particular bill or on a particular matter on the ballot, they would be limited to one thousand dollars in support of that measure. Now, other interest groups are able to get around that easily.

(end belt #4)

(start belt #5)

Look what happened a few years ago when proper economic interests were worried about taxes on inventory. Take as an example a matter that would tax new car inventory. It would be relatively simple for the new car dealers and a very proper political maneuver in view of this bill to access each new car dealer on a number of new cars that are sold. No one would doubt their ability to raise that money. On the other hand if the Catholic Church as they were a few years ago were interested in a particular amendment, it would be almost impossible for the church to raise more than the thousand dollars because it doesn't have the control over local bodies. Now the same is true with the labor movement. There is a difference between organized labor and large business through corporation operates. This bill it is argued could effectively limit contributions made by labor unions to a thousand dollars where business would be able to spread this out among many local organizations. Now my opposition to this bill is because I don't think that it will do what it is intended to do. I think that is the wrong place to attack and to try and solve the problems of campaign financing. A much more effective place to put a lid on is in the area of how much a candidate can spend in the area of limiting large cash contributions the way Senator Carpenter's bill does and in what this legislature saw a defeat a few moments ago which would have been a tax right off the income tax. That is an idea of whose time probably hasn't yet come. I think that this proposal though it is conceived as a method of purifying the election process will really throw out of kilter the present present balance that now exists. Therefore I urge the adoption of this amendment which will have the effect of balancing the interest in the state of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak is Senator Warner, Waldron, Kelly, Schmit, Chambers and Kelly.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, just briefly I would like to explain to the members just exactly what is being offered or