

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Colleagues, Mr. President, you all have been given a copy of this brief amendment to section 17 of LB 535. Now this language is taken directly out of a federal statute that was passed recently and it is an attempt to tighten up just a little bit the use of campaign funds, surplus campaign funds that are left over once an election is over and once somebody is elected to office. I think what this amendment attempts to make clear is that if you have excessive campaign funds, why you are permitted to use them but you have to use them for office expenses. You have to use them for ordinary and necessary expenses that are incurred in connection with your duties as an officeholder, and it will prevent, or at least it is intended to prevent the conversion to personal use of excessive campaign funds. It is a small amendment. It tightens up a little bit section 17, addresses the problems that Senator Cope talked about when he spoke on this provision a couple of days ago. It may not tighten it up quite as much as a lot of us would like to see but I think it is an important step in the right direction, and I would urge the adoption of this amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, once again we are playing around with the "political accountability and disclosure act" and every time I read that thing I become a little more confused as to what is or is not allowed. We have created a monster, in my opinion, in the agency. We had it repealed one time but the Governor vetoed it. I thought we had a much simpler more direct more honest system set up. Before we make any major changes, and this is a major change...this is a major change, don't kid yourself, I would urge you to examine it pretty carefully. The next thing you know if you fill your car with gas and drive to the office and then drive to the grocery store, you are going to be guilty of a crime under one or another of these proposals, and I think that is exactly what would happen under this one. So, be a little cautious before you adopt this.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, the Hoagland amendment is basically what the Supreme Court has talked about. I don't think it is excessively tough or anything like that. I think that the public would request that the legislators not convert those dollars for their own personal use, and for that reason I don't have any big