

for members of an airport authority to solicit money from private individuals to pay for what should be publicly paid expenses?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: All this amendment states, Senator Fowler, is if such solicitations are made and if such fund raisers are held...

SENATOR FOWLER: I understand that. Is such solicitation proper?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Well, this amendment doesn't address that issue, Senator.

SENATOR FOWLER: But I am asking you.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Well, that is a very difficult policy issue and I think we maybe ought to have a bill on that issue and discuss it in committee and see what people think.

SENATOR FOWLER: Well, I think oftentimes when you write something into law, in a way it endorses the practice. I am afraid, Senator Hoagland, that in a way by saying that... it had always been my feeling that I could not raise money from private individuals, convert that to expenses that were legislative expenses. I did not think that was proper. I did not think that....I know there were a lot of abuses in Congress with people setting up personal office accounts, and I think that that is an unhealthy practice that should not be encouraged. I would think you would feel the same way. I think by writing it in the statute in this way, you, in fact, indicate to elected officials that the Legislature thinks it is proper to have private office accounts raised through fund raisers to pay for paintings in your office, to pay for special expenses that are, as you admit in your amendment, rather vague. I think maybe we should not try and put any sort of stamp of legitimacy on this practice by itemizing it in the statute but go back to base one and ask ourselves, should public officials be able to raise money privately, use their office, if you will, they are already elected, use their office to collect money to establish a personal account to pay for expenses that should be paid for by government. I think that is a poor practice. I think there is a lot of dangers in that and I think your amendment indirectly endorses that practice. I think a separate piece of legislation looking at the full question would be more valuable.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.