

are one of ten states that have no limitation whatsoever on individual contributions. If this bill passes in its current form, without this amendment, we will have done something. And Senator Baack needs to be commended for what he has done. But it will really not impact, dramatically, campaign spending in Nebraska. And it will not, in my view, impact at all the power of the special interest groups through the purse strings to decide which candidates should be reelected and which candidates should not be elected. That power will still be out there, that power will be extant, that power will really not be abridged. And the level playing field that we are trying to achieve here, to bring the people into the process, will not occur, it will not occur. And I suggest to you that, Senator Beutler, that if we don't have this kind of reform in our legislative package this year, that it is going to be extremely difficult to go to the voters and suggest to them that people that have been in this body, like Jerry Warner and Ernie Chambers, who have been here for a long time, and Bernice Labeledz, and Loran Schmit, they add a lot to this body, they add a lot to this process. They bring expertise and they bring...they bring knowledge. But I'll tell you what, the voters are about ready to put term limitations on this body, and eight years is going to be the extent of it. I don't think that's good public policy. But if we don't show that we are ready, as a body, to bring the people in, and to put the special interests where they belong...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...as one quctient, or one part of it, and Senator Hefner, and Senator Lamb, and Senator Johnson, and others who have been here for a long time. And I think it's important that we do that. It's a serious question, and we have, at least since I have been here we haven't had the opportunity to make...to make that decision. And I hope that we can...we can do that now. And with that, Madam President, I urge the adoption of the amendment. Thank you. And I'd ask for a...I guess we're under call, but I'd ask for a roll call vote in regular order.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. We are still looking for Senator Moore and have not been able to find him. Do you want to proceed with the vote? There he is. I will remind the senators that the house is under call. We'll proceed with a roll call vote on the Ashford amendment to LB 556.