

this is the amendment which would say that if you receive over \$100 in...in the election period, you have to report the source of that money. Now, the bill, as it stands now, without my amendment, says that you do not have to list the source until it exceeds \$250. And some would argue, and I certainly want to reiterate that, that under the existing law that if you make the primary reporting, you don't have to report anything over 100, and then the general election report you would not have to report anything over 100, so you could conceivably get \$200, under the existing...under the past law, without the source being identified in those two reporting periods. Now this has, as Senator Baack has pointed out, a cumulative reporting. And the figure is at \$250. I'm suggesting that we leave it at \$100. Now, there aren't very many things this body can do to raise the esteem of the public for us that doesn't cost us any money, and it really doesn't cost us anything at all. Now this is a very small thing, but I'm going to tell you that I think that it's relatively important. And you can say that perceptions mean nothing, but that's not the case. The laws that we pass and how they're perceived are extremely important. I suggest to you that it is important for us to leave the reporting level at \$100, and that's what my amendment does. Under the change, if you don't adopt my amendment, you could receive \$125 in the primary, you could receive \$115 in the general, that's \$240, and you'd not have to report the source of that money. Whereas under present law you're have to report both of those contributions, because they're both over \$100. Now, I don't see any compelling reason to change it. I'm going to say that we talked to the people in the Political Accountability Office as to their feelings, one way or the other, and they said it's a policy decision, it's a policy decision. They're not going to...going to get involved in that, and I don't blame them. It's our decision. It's policy. I'm not suggesting that we be ridiculous and report every...every item received. But I'm suggesting that \$100, over \$100 is...is...is a fair amount of money, I think it should be reported. I think it sends the wrong message to change it, and I don't see any reason to change it. And I think...I think we're being offered a very nominal opportunity here to tell...to tell John Q. Public we're going to be accountable; this is reasonable and we have the choice of changing this and being a little less accountable, and we chose not to do it, we chose to leave it the same. And, as I said before, it costs us nothing, it costs us nothing to do this. You got to fill out the reports anyway, so what's the difference if you have to put down \$110 or you don't. I would ask the body