

these questions for me, since I was not here for debate on General File. But I wanted to make sure that people understood as I understood in the Government Committee when we discussed this bill...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: ...and it was not given a public hearing because Senator Baack said all he wanted was a two year delay in the campaign finance reform. That's what we put in. We struck the language from the bill. And I, too, was surprised to find out that the language was all back in, on General File. And I will just go along, since we have the language to work with, go along with Senator Bromm's amendments to the bill. If someone else can amend a bill, knowing that it...it will be two years before it's enacted, or one year now if this one is enacted, then Senator Bromm should be also allowed to make those changes at this time. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Ashford, on the Bromm amendment.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in support of the Bromm amendment, but for slightly different reasons than those stated by Senator Witek, I believe. First of all, what Senator Baack quite...I know I'm in the dog house with him, so I'd be laudatory, only this one time, and probably won't make a difference. But made...when we adopted this...this measure the first time, last year, or two years ago, I guess, whenever it was, in my opinion it was one of the most significant pieces of legislation we passed since I've been in the Legislature. I wholeheartedly support public financing of campaigns, and I wholeheartedly support checkoff as a mechanism of funding it. And I, at least in talking to my constituents about this issue at town hall meetings, checkoff for public financing of campaigns is supported by just about everybody I talked to. Unfortunately, in the constitutional concerns that are raised on these...in these kinds of statutes require that we have public financing in order to put limitations on spending. And...and that is, in some ways, unfortunate, but it is required. And I...and...and it's for that reason that I wholeheartedly supported what Senator Baack did in getting this legislation passed. Senator Bromm, I think, is correct in bringing this amendment. I don't think we should delay the implementation. Also, from a procedural standpoint, it's my