

SENATOR ASHFORD: The amendment simply adds, if you'd look at line 18, page 8 of the bill, it simply says I believe the words are effective for election year, for an election after January 1, 1994. So any election that occurs after January 1, 1994 these PAC limits would...aggregate PAC and business campaign spending limits would apply.

SENATOR ABBODD: Okay, thank you. I guess I may...I think I'm going to probably rise in opposition to this. When we passed the bill last year we...it was, I know some of the freshmen weren't here but it did require a great deal of debate and there were some sections to the bill that I didn't care for. There are some sections that I wanted to have much lower and this was one section I felt very strongly about that the amount should be at a lower level but the body chose not to agree with that and it's my hope that by having an interim period that this is one section that I would like to see even lower. Currently it provides that it puts a limitation on what these individuals; independent committees, PACs, unions can give. But I feel that that amount should be much lower and it's my hope that in the coming year that legislation is introduced and I may be one of those that may introduce it, that will limit these kind of contributions. The feeling, and I rely a lot on the principal introducer of the bill, Senator Baack. I believed in him when I supported the bill last year and I felt that we were taking a leap of faith enacting a bill that no other state had enacted. This was breaking brand new ground, an area that no other state had chosen to go into. In reviewing the limitations placed upon contributions that the U.S. Supreme Court had examined we found that these particular limitations, some we could not limit. For example, an individual, for example, Ross Perot. He runs for Governor. The limitations that we have we found that we could not limit his amount of his contributions because of U.S. Supreme Court decisions and I felt very strongly that this is the approach that we should take, to try to limit them. Some felt that we could not do that legally and that the limitation should be in a manner such as this but the campaign finance was an integral part to a lot of these people supporting this particular bill. I supported the bill as a package. If we're going to have the bill, let's do it as a package as the bill completely, as it was designed completely by the sponsor. I'm willing to give deference to the principal sponsor of the bill, Senator Baack. When he chose to wait to have this bill passed, if it hadn't been for Senator Baack's tenacity in pushing this