

House Committee on Legislative Rules & Reapportionment April 10, 1991 -
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report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the
proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RULES AND REAPPORTIONMENT

April 10, 1991Hearing Room E 5:00 p.m.Tapes 24 -25

MEMBERS PRESENT:Rep. Greg Walden, Chair Rep. Peter Courtney,
Vice-Chair Rep. Ray Baum Rep. Ron Cease Rep. Beverly Clarno Rep. Carl
Hosticka Rep. Bill Markham Rep. Tom Mason Rep. Randy Miller Rep. Fred
Parkinson

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rep. Margaret Carter

VISITING MEMBER:Rep. Bob Pickard Rep. Mike Burton Rep. Ted Calouri

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Leo, Committee Administrator Mary Walling,
Committee Assistant

MEASURES CONSIDERED: HB 2400 - Election Campaign
Contributions HB 3300 - Employment Rights of Legislators HB 3197 -
Legislative Honoraria

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TAPE 24, SIDE A

CHAIR WALDEN: Called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

(Tape 24, Side A) HB 2400 - Election Campaign Contributions, Public
Hearing Witnesses:Norma Paulus, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Rep. Bob Pickard, House District 54 Rep. Mike Burton, House District 17
Nina Johnson, Office of Secretary of State Jimi Mathers David Buchanan,
Oregon Common Cause

010 REP. PICKARD, HOUSE DISTRICT 54: As sponsor of the bill testified
in support of HB 240 0.

>The constant search for election dollars has a debilitating effect on
legislators. It is debasing and can undermine the reasons legislators
seek office.

>In last two elections 22 candidates collected over \$100,000. Ten

election cycles ago the average amount of money spent by a candidate was \$3,800. Now it is \$45,000.

>The cost of running a campaign is so high many potential candidates will not seek office.

>There is no perfect solution. The idea of leveling the playing field and limiting the amount that PACS can have and can give is a step in the right direction.

>Discussion followed on the power that the PACS have and what would be results of spending limitation. -PACS could break up into many smaller PACS. -PACS could run independent campaigns.

143 REP. MILLER: Last session heard testimony from a lobbyist representing a large PAC. He talked about independent expenditures and said it would be difficult to do anything about that.

>Lobbyist said limits like this are a good idea because that way the PACS could run an independent campaign, say whatever they wanted without worrying about ramifications, and not consult with the candidates.

180 REP. MIKE BURTON, HOUSE DISTRICT 17: Testifies in support of HB 2400.

220 REP. HOSTICKA: Expressed concern about independent expenditures. It is likely to grow. Don't believe limitation can be written that is effective.

230 REP. BURTON: There is no way to prevent a person from spending own money. If there is a way to audit and control the expenditures that might help limit spending.

286 NORMA PAULUS, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: Testifies in support of HB 2400. Has been involved in this issue since 1973.

>Resists movement for money being spent for name familiarity. Wants people to be elected on issues.

>When drafted first bill tried to get one treasurer to deal with independent spending. All money spent on a candidate or issue had to go through a single treasurer. That was the law for awhile.

>Actively supports the political tax credit for an individual. People get more involved. Resist doing away with tax credits for individuals.

>One of the keys is to get rid of the tax credits to PACS.

TAPE 25, SIDE A

080 REP. BURTON: Has nothing against PACS, but has problem with the concentration of dollars that translates to power within the PACS. A candidate ends up relying on that particular PAC to get money.

>Public should be choosing based on issues. Instead of giving money to PACS, voters should listen to candidates and write checks to candidates based on merit.

231 REP. CEASE: If legislators don't resolve this issue, there will be an initiative petition. The initiative petition may or may not get at the

problem.

320 REP. BURTON: The repeal of tax credits to PACS is in the bill. By limiting tax credits part of the problem is taken away. The bill limits the amount of money to \$20,000 that a PAC can spend in a campaign.

>PACS could split off. However, if there is any connection between them they can't do it. The difficulties are enforcement and finding the connection between the PACS.

TAPE 24 Side B

075 REP. BURTON: Twenty eight states have contribution limits. The cost of campaigning is far less in those states than in Oregon.

124 NINA JOHNSON, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO SECRETARY STATE: Secretary of State supports this bill.

>Encourage committee to include equitable voluntary spending limits.

145 JIMI MATHERS: Submits and reads testimony in support of HB 2400. (EXHIBIT A)

182 DAVID BUCHANAN, COMMON CAUSE: Common Cause supports HB 2400.

>Common Cause put on the ballot a comprehensive spending limit tied to public funding law. It was voted down.

>Common Cause believes if voters have a chance to vote on this bill it will pass.

(Tape 24, Side B) HB 3300, Employment Rights of Legislators, Public Hearing Witness:Rep. Ted Calouri

381 REP. CALOURI, HOUSE DISTRICT 7: The legislature last session dealt with employment rights of legislators. However, some refinement is needed.

>New language starts at the end of line 13, page 1. Did not intend to have the first sentence of that paragraph removed. Would like both sentences left in.

TAPE 25, SIDE B

>Explains amendments. (EXHIBIT B) Lines 29 through 31 on page 1 are not necessary.

>Line 26, page 1 states member or prospective member. Prospective member means a person who has been elected or appointed, but has not yet been sworn in. It is defined on page 2, line 36.

099 >On page 2, line 24 changed language to read after adjournment. This would stop a legislator from staying on after adjournment and telling employer he was still on official business.

>Last session legislators were given the right to a leave of absence and right to not be discriminated against.

>Also gave legislators the right to have the Attorney General represent them if having problem with employer granting leave of absence. It was

not clear if the Attorney General could represent legislator on the discrimination issue.

>On line 39, page 2, add ORS 171.120. This clarifies that the Attorney General can assist in both area.

>It was not clear if legislator could hire his own attorney in addition to or in place of Attorney General. This is clarified on page 3, line 4 (2).

258 REP. COURTNEY: Suggests review statutes on jury duty. Those statutes might have an introductory philosophical statement that could be used.

318 CHAIR WALDEN: The term official duties on page 1, line 16, and 17, appears to give the legislator a lot of leeway. Look at it from employer's side. A legislator could spend a lot of time on phone or at ribbon cutting ceremonies.

380 REP. MILLER: Suggests on page 1, line 16 after words special session put a period.

391 >Employer should have some rights to limit amount of time spent doing legislative business at place of work.

428 CHAIR WALDEN: Asked Rep. Calouri to return with LC amendments to accomplish the things that were discussed.

REP. CALOURI: Will also look at parallel with jury duty and military leave.

(Tape 25, Side B) HB 3197, Legislative Honoraria, Public Hearing
Witness:Rep. Greg Walden

448 REP. GREG WALDEN, HOUSE DISTRICT 56: Submits testimony in support of HB 319 7. (EXHIBIT C)

449 CHAIR WALDEN: Adjourns the meeting at 7 p.m.

Submitted by: Reviewed by:

Mary Walling Greg Leo Assistant Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT LOG

A - Testimony on HB 2400 - J. Mathers - 1 page B - Amendments to HB 3300
- Rep. Calouri - 1 page C - Testimony on HB 3197 - Rep. Walden - 2 pages