

distinctions that are going to be made by this legislation? Essentially today, campaign funds that you or any other candidate or office holder receive can be used for anything. There really is almost no restriction at this point in the law. What we are saying is those campaign funds have to stop short of personally benefitting an office holder or a candidate and I think that what we are trying to say is that there is a line that needs to be drawn. This is where we draw the line. Perhaps you have drawn it somewhat differently but somewhere a line needs to be drawn. Now when we talk about what the differences are on one side or other of that line we can talk about, I guess specifics in some cases but I think what Senator Beutler said is accurate. There is really no way to provide for you a list one way or another as to what would be in and what would be out of compliance with the law if this bill was passed. It is very difficult for us to provide that. We have tried to come up with some ideas. Let me go through some of the ideas that we have and try and show you the distinctions that would be there. First off, the bill does list a number of expenditures that would specifically be prohibited from use with campaign funds. Those would include clothes or medical or dental expenses of the candidate or immediate family, installment payments for an automobile by the candidate, mortgage or rental payments for a residence of the candidate, installment payments on personal loans of the candidates, securities or commodities, office supplies, staff or furnishings. These are all listed in the bill and are just an attempt and the intent of that section of the bill is to just provide an idea of where we saw the line should be drawn but, quite frankly, that does not cover all the different instances that may come up. I think that we are leaving in the hands of the Commission the desire to try and individually consider each request and each question that would be raised. The idea as Senator Beutler expressed is a clear one. It is the present law that we have now with the Commission. If you have a question about the accountability law you ask for an opinion from the Commission. They sit down and consider that. They provide you with an opinion. You have an idea of whether or not the circumstance you are concerned about is, as they interpret it, covered or not covered by the law and on that basis you can decide quite firmly which way to go. So, I think it has worked well and I have asked for several opinions and they have been very helpful and I have had no problem with the law and I think it will work well in this case as well. And what we are saying is it will be pretty much self-policing. Candidates will know that they are not supposed to use campaign funds for personal benefit. If they do have a doubt, if there is a gray area they can go to the Commission and say, hey, what do you think about this idea, and they will get a response rather quickly