

explore with you a little bit the section on honorarium.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Withem, will you respond, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: I would be delighted.

SENATOR BEUTLER: First of all, and this doesn't go to my main point, but I was looking in the dictionary for a definition of honorarium and I noticed the two dictionaries I use have completely different definitions. How...just out of curiosity, how would you define honorarium?

SENATOR WITHEM: I would define it...I don't know if there is a statutory definition, but I would define it as a payment for a performance, usually a speech. I don't know if the customary definition goes beyond that to other sorts of services provided but I think in its common...common usage it would involve giving a speech in front of a group and being paid for that service.

SENATOR BEUTLER: What if no speech were given in front of the group but you were just invited to the group to go around and talk to the members of the group at an association meeting, for example, would that be an honorarium?

SENATOR WITHEM: It may be, I don't know. It would not be something that I would condone and think ought to be part of our...part of what is allowable under our Accountability and Disclosure Report. I don't know if that's under the customary definition of honorarium or not.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The dictionary definition says a payment made for services for which a fee is not required by law or custom. Anyway, it seemed to me a rather vague definition once you got to thinking about it and perhaps one that could use defining eventually here. But the main question I wanted to get to and my concern has to do with how this would be regulated under the proposal in the bill. As I understand the current law now, and maybe you could elaborate on this, but as I understand it now, an honorarium, if...if it was determined that there was consideration of equal or greater value, then in that event if that criteria is met, it can be for any amount. If that criteria is not met, then it can't be for more than the current \$25 limitation. Is that your understanding of it, too?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes.