

something given to a person because they're a legislator. I would be delighted to work on something like that. I believe Senator Kristensen had some thoughts on this and you and i...it's his bill also. You and I have been kind of (interruption).

SENATOR BEUTLER: I would be delighted to hear his thoughts but since I have only 15 second I just want to say, in passing, that I would certainly look to some solution to this problem later on in the process and I think we are...we're doing ourselves a disservice if we don't patch up this one loophole in what I think is otherwise a very good bill. Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, Senator Beutler, I might take off a little bit on what you brought up to light and give you this sort of a framework. In the definition of the honorarium, as you have brought up, you still have to weigh against that the prohibitions against a gift, so you still have, if this bill passes, you will still have the \$50 threshold for gifts. In other words, if you come in and say, well, that five-minute wonderful speech that Senator Bernard-Stevens gave, his speeches may well be worth \$100 for five minutes but you're going to have to weigh that against, was it a gift? In other words, if there is a blatant violation there, you still can come under the definitions of a gift and say, I mean, there was no services rendered there, you know, it was a sham sort of thing and, in effect, what that was was a gift. And if it's...then if there was over \$50 given, that becomes a crime, you know, and for people such as yourself or myself that crime may well lead to the loss of your license to practice law or other things or your real estate license or whatever. Those are very severe penalties. Those are things that you don't take lightly and that's part of the reason that I am on this bill is to make sure that the unwary aren't caught in some of these traps. The provisions for the \$50 gift will still be in there but those might well be plaques, those could be a wide variety of things. Senator Withem mentioned green fees, but there are a wide variety of other things. I think all of us, at one time or another, out of appreciation or whatever groups or individuals show to us, to do that. The other thing that I would talk to you about would be the purpose and the purpose is that if our local custom is that I am in here to make money on my great speech-making abilities, obviously, I would go