

just put my light on to further explore the honorarium question and if Senator Beutler had had some additional questions, I was going to let him use this time, if he does, and I will turn to him and see in a second or two after I make a comment or two. He has raised some good points on this honoraria question. I'm not comfortable, personally, with what's...the way the bill is written at this particular point and I would like to work with Senator Beutler and anybody else that's interested to further refine this. I think there is a potential for abuse in this area of honoraria. I don't think it's one that exists, quite frankly, in visiting with my colleagues and my own personal experiences doesn't happen that often. Most people that call upon us to be speakers at places feel that that's part of our ongoing responsibilities as a senator and, frankly, I do, too. Occasionally, when the remarks you are asked to give take a little more preparation and a little more time out of your personal schedule and they might not undertake some groups do offer, in my experience, very small, very small sums and I have never felt as though they were out of the ordinary beyond the services that were provided. But I think maybe we could tighten this measure up a little bit more than what's in this bill to assure that the services that are being provided are commensurate with the effort that was given. For instance, if a group never gives an honorarium ever in their history and they give a \$5,000 honorarium to a senator who happens to be chairing a bill that they're interested in, raises some very legitimate sorts of questions, probably ought not to be allowed. On the other hand, if a group is paying all of their speakers at a given conference and one of them happens to be a legislator and it's a modest amount, I think that probably ought to be allowed. So within those confines, Senator Beutler, I would be delighted to work with you on something to clarify this bill. And did you have any other points? I relinquish the rest of my time to you if you have any further points.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Just one, one comment or a question that maybe you would like to respond to or better yet it's brought up by Senator Kristensen's remark, but the words "or honorarium" are being dropped out of the definition of gift. And so I assume in order to get away from the concept of gift which Senator Kristensen is saying still would pertain that you would have to make a determination with regard to value, the value of the services. And if, in fact, to escape the definition of gift by making that determination aren't you then going right back to what we do right now? And, therefore, why amend the bill