

SENATOR WITHEM: It's in the Journal on page 1130, Mr. Chair, members of the body. I was going to do this this morning, and I'm learning that you should always go with your instincts. My instinct was to do this early this morning. But when I saw Senator Beutler's amendment, I thought it clarified the situation to the point where we could go ahead with the dealing with honoraria in the bill, but obviously we can't. What I'm suggesting we do with this amendment is that we leave the statutes exactly as they are in relationship to honoraria. This bill provided for taking honoraria out of the section with gift, setting up a new section with honoraria and dealing with reporting that's caused a lot of confusion. My sense from that last vote is that there is still not a lot of understanding. I don't think anybody has made the compelling need that the need to change the statute as it relates to honoraria is there. If it could have been done simply in a manner in which people would have understood it, I think that would have been fine. But there are those that think the bill restricts honoraria too much. There are those that think that it opens it up too much. It really doesn't do either. The intent of the bill was just to leave the...to endorse, statutorily, the current interpretation. The Accountability Commission has done well with the...being able to interpret it so far. There's a lot of other good things in this bill that need to be done to improve the accountability statutes of our state. And I'm sensing we're at the point where this whole question of the honoraria is getting us mired down, so I'm suggesting we remove any reference to honoraria, not from the statute, leave the statute exactly as it is, make no changes and get on with the rest of the bill, because there are some important things in the rest of the bill.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Chambers, then Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I support Senator Withem's amendment, and I think it will go a long way toward putting this bill in a form that will be understandable in terms of what it is trying to do. The matter of honorarium, honoraria should be handled entirely differently than the way that was being attempted here. And I want to say that, again, I understand what Senator Beutler was trying to do. But when we take a term which is generally understood and try to define it, and the definition is one other than what it ordinarily is, then we create a bigger problem than the one we're trying to solve. So at least with the amendment that