

was included there anyway, and that putting that word in there was simply meant to clarify that honorarium, whatever that meant, was intended to be included and reported. By deleting honorarium, are you saying that honorarium doesn't have to be reported now, that's the interpretation that you're making of that rule?

SENATOR WITHEM: The interpretation I'm making is that the statutes, as they exist today, if my amendment is successful, will continue to exist. I will not be making interpretations. Accountability Commission will have the same tools available to it to make interpretations that it has now.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, since we're interpreting current law, or have the opportunity to interpret current law, and since you're amending this section, if it your interpretation that honorarium would be included under the current language of the law?

SENATOR WITHEM: I do not presume to interpret current statute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Are you deleting the term honorarium on line 6, page 5?

SENATOR WITHEM: I am deleting the word "honorarium" on page 5, line 6.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: Is there any further discussion? Seeing none, Senator Withem, do you wish to close.

SENATOR WITHEM: Again, I'm amazed, people are trying to read intent into leaving statutes as they are, and what's your intent in leaving statute as it is. I'm not trying to do anything other than get the troublesome portion of this bill out of it so we can get on with the rest of the bill. It's a good bill, there's a lot of other good things in it. This whole question of honorarium has caused a great deal of confusion. We have not been able to clarify as we originally intended to. I'm waving my white flag and saying we have failed miserably in an attempt to clarify, that it should not drag down the rest of the bill, nor should it drag down the rest of today's session. So I would urge you to support the amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Motion is the adoption of the Withem amendment.