

Senator Lynch. (Lynch amendment appears on page 1170 of the Journal.)

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, I come before you to stand behind you to talk to you about something I know nothing about.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Lynch, are you on now?

SENATOR LYNCH: Hello. Yes. Mr. President, members, you know, let's do this all the time, Mr. Speaker. I have a simple little amendment to this bill, Mr. President and members, on page 5, line 4 strikes the word "member of such official's staff" and insert "any employee of the State of Nebraska". I'll let you think about it just a second. I think what we're talking about here is accountability, I guess. And it occurred to me that in addition to constitutional officeholders, elected officials, I think we should all be accountable if we accept public dollars in any form, in any salary. We talk about honorarium. I guess an honorarium is money you receive for doing something in the line of your professional responsibility. I just happen to have here an article that was provided to me about a couple of people who just happen to be teachers, professors. It reads this, this month, however, they and their daughter will travel to Bangkok, Thailand, where he is participating in a seminar. I assume that he will be paid in Thailand for participating in the seminar, and that is fine, I have no problem with that. Goes on to say that's another advantage of that kind of a couple, they can schedule vacations more easily. But at the same time we, in a sense, abuse ourselves and leave the impression, with the general public, that we want to do everything we can to be accountable as it applies to elected officials. I think anybody who receives public dollars in the form of salaries, for any reason, ought to be held to the same standards, and that's all this amendment does. I would hope you would support it. It's a simple amendment and it makes sense to me. I discovered, after being on the Appropriations Committee, in talking to the Accountability and Disclosure Commission that quite a few people who make a lot more money than \$12,000, such as we, are really not held accountable, for whatever reason I don't know. This might be a good place for us to start in that accountability process and understanding of who gets what money in the state, what kind of third party or other income they receive, and have