

form of a letter in respond, somehow the thought was that that possibly took away the confidentiality, the protection from those records because they were not in their original form. This clarifies that no matter what form those records are in, they still retain that confidentiality aspect.

SENATOR WITEK: So as in the case of some senators that had some phone calls to political organizations, this would seal that off so that the press would not be able to get that information.

SENATOR HALL: The information with regard to telephone records would not change. It would basically say that those records are still protected. There was a clarification issue, clearly the instance that you speak to was a question, I felt, where the judge's order was basically violated. But the argument was used that somehow those records were not in their original form. Rather than fight that issue with another court case, it makes sense just to clarify what was understood to be the judge's opinion and decision, that those records were confidential and could not be released.

SENATOR WITEK: So if I make phone calls to political...or one senator on the floor makes phone calls to a political organization, a thousand phone calls at a \$1,000 and declares those all off limits, so to speak, then that seals them off and that no one will ever know that they were of a political nature?

SENATOR HALL: That could happen right now without the passage of this bill. If somebody is going to be dishonest, that will happen right now. That could happen right now. All this does is to say that for purposes of somebody who acknowledges that they made telephone calls and pays for them, that that cannot be released. As long as...I mean that information is not eligible to release because it somehow showed up in a letter.

SENATOR WITEK: And does this cover all of our travel expense audits and all of our personal audits on our \$73 a day or \$26 a day?

SENATOR HALL: That is taken care of through the general audit, so the answer to your question is yes. Those work papers would be included for purposes of confidentiality. It doesn't do anything with regard to whether or not they can be audited. It has noth...has no impact on that.