

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 25, 1999

LR 4

might miss a cycle, because it says they're to meet every two years, you might miss a cycle of pay in there, so to make it clear that the thousand dollars would stay into play until the commission met.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Thank you very much. I certainly support the amendment and I most certainly support the idea of having a commission do the work of setting the salaries. And I do that, as we are all doing it, knowing that this very proposition has failed at least twice in the past and I don't believe has ever come close to rallying the support of the people. I have...I had a bill related to the commission and part of the idea that was in this bill I would like to express to you today and expand on it in terms of expressing how I think you can get the people to move to adopt this commission. This particular form of commission is taking a certain subject matter area and recognizing that the public believes that the Legislature itself would not handle it well and hands it over to a commission. So it takes that narrow subject matter area of salaries and does that. I would suggest to you that if you added two more topics, that in the public mind the Legislature does not handle well, you could sell this to the public, and those two topics are a code of ethics and gifts. And I think that this kind of commission is admirably suited to deal with salaries on a continuing basis, but allow it on a one-time basis to set up for us a system, that we could change in the future, but to set it up at first, a code of ethics for the Legislature and rules with regard to gifts. If you did those two things I am feeling more confident all the time as I talk to people that they would pass this commission idea. I've gotten to this point on a very ad hoc basis and with information that's...that's not scientific. I talked to a Kiwanis Club. I talked to a Kiwanis Club last week, for example. They asked me about salaries and I described to them what we were doing and the commission idea, and then I tried to explore the commission idea without indicating that I had a particular bill or...

SENATOR C. PETERSON: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...Kristensen had a particular bill, and I said how many...and in the end, after describing the different propositions I said, in the end, how many of you would be more