

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

April 4, 2000

LB 1021

limit my comments to the amendment, because I'm not the wide-ranging authority on this area of the law. I don't campaign for office. I don't accept contributions. So a lot of things that the rest of you all have to contend with on a regular basis I do not. So I'm not going to try to impose on any of you all the simplicity of the life that I live as a public official. You do have to grapple with these reporting requirements and you have to know what is going to be criminalized among the things that you're required to do. So I am learning as we go along. I hope never to be in a position where I have to worry about the amounts of the gifts. I don't get gifts. And when people try to offer me things, I don't accept them. I'm not saying that's the way anybody else should be. You should be gracious. And sometimes you offend people when they want to offer you something to show their appreciation, and it's not to purchase you. Again, I'm not talking about lobbyists. But I am the kind of person who has the kind of reputation where anything that I do is expected, meaning that they don't know what I'm liable to do. So my circumstances are different. I want to keep that in mind as amendments are offered,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and think about what the average or run-of-mill official is going to be confronted by through the language we put into the law. And having listened to Senator Coordsen, listened to Senator Thompson, and heard suggestions by others, I do think his amendment ought to be adopted.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Wickersham. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you. Mr. President, members of the body, I have no personal objection to the Coordsen amendment. In some ways, it would be a lot easier, because some of those personal gifts from personal friends, the Christmas gifts, the wedding gifts, all those kinds of things, probably wouldn't fall in the reporting category there. My only caveat is that if it's different from what the lobbyist limit is, then people will have to keep track and know that those are two different figures. That's my only caveat here, because it does get kind of