

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

April 4, 2000

LB 1021

confusing sometimes. So if you want to adopt the \$100 figure, you're going to have to remember that it's \$100 and over that you have to report...actually, \$101.01 (sic) probably, that you have to report on your financial interest, but you cannot accept a gift from a lobbyist or a principal that's over \$50. So as long as you can keep that straight, I think this is a fine amendment. That would be my only suggestion to you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, I may not speak directly, I guess, to Senator Coordsen's amendment, although I don't find his proposal troubling. It's what the current state of the law is and I don't know that the amount is necessarily that big a deal. But I do think it's incumbent to call to your attention that the definition of "gift" as used in those sections is different than the one...than another definition of "gift" that you might be thinking about. You might be thinking about the definition of "gift" that is contained in Section 3 of the bill (sic--AM7267). You see it on page 5 in subsection (3). And in that definition there are exclusions for a campaign contribution; a commercially reasonable loan; a gift from a member of a person's immediate family, a relative or a spouse; meals for immediate consumption; and occasional provision of transportation. That isn't the definition of "gift" that you have to use for the reporting of financial interest. The definition of "gift" you have to use for that is in 49-1423, and it doesn't have the exclusions for food and drink, doesn't have the exclusion for travel. And that may matter to you as you try to keep track of what you have to report and what you don't have to report. The definitions of "gift" are different and, to avoid problems for yourself, you do need to be aware of those differences, and be careful to keep track of those differences. One other thing that I would call to your attention, and it is maybe something that we should remedy. We did not attempt to remedy it in the amendment that's now proposed. You'll notice that the language about gifts says, immediate family, a relative, or a spouse. And you wonder why you have all of that terminology. Well, there is a definition of "immediate family" that is in the statutes, and it is very, very narrow. You may think of your immediate family as your children, your parents,