

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

April 12, 2000 LB 1021

beat me up on the golf course and mock me because I'm not very good? He doesn't want anything from me. He's not a lobbyist. But I've got to declare that as a gift. And if I don't, I'm a criminal. And each of you has situations like that in your lives as well. If you miss one of these things, you're a criminal. And is that fair? I'm not sure we know what's in this bill, despite the discussion we've had. And I've been talking at length with Senator Coordsen about this, because he's kind of been one of the leaders in trying to refine it to a point where it doesn't have so many pitfalls. But ultimately, in my mind, this Legislature looks like one collective Don Quixote, tilting at the windmill of legislators who are on the take. I haven't seen any legislators that are on the take. I don't think there are any. Where's the problem here? What are we...what is this a solution to? I've never had a single constituent in my term in the Legislature, in four years, not one, say, my goodness, you people need to refine that gift law. Change that. You're getting too many gifts. We're not getting too many gifts. We're not getting any, by and large, except for a carrot cake now and then. Senator Suttle got a coffee mug. Now there's a big deal. I mean, come on, folks. We've all kind of sat here on our hands. But as I've talked to people privately, by and large, this body is not happy with this piece of legislation. Not even close. And we're sitting here on our hands, we're going to pass some law that makes it look like there's something that needs to be fixed. I don't see anything that needs to be fixed. I don't see a problem here. There are little things I'd like to change. I think it would be nice if the lobbyists would report separately for the executive branch and the legislative branch. I think it would be nice if they would either all include their office expenses or not include their office expenses. Some do, some don't, so you can't tell. It comes out and says, Bruce Cutshall or Walt Radcliffe spent a hundred and some thousand dollars. You can't tell if that's money spent on us. Some of them include their office expenses. They're including rent and their computers and their phone bill and everything else. But does this bill solve that? It doesn't solve that. So I urge you, before we just pass this without thinking about it, let's talk about it a little. Let's talk about it a little, because there are serious problems with this piece of legislation. Thank you.