

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

April 4, 2000

LB 1021

publicly funded postsecondary educational institution which gives a gift of an admission to a facility to an official in either executive or legislative branch or a member of the official staff or immediate family files a report of the gift with the Clerk of the Legislature, including the name of the recipient, description of the gift, and the gift's value. Now, this is an entirely new provision and it was really, during some discussions, felt that the university, which would have to report as a lobbyist on the lobbying expenses, but there are other institutions that are not lobbyists that do give football tickets, play tickets, whatever, and that they should probably report under the "gifting" section. So, with that, I think I'll stop there because this is a lot to absorb and maybe...maybe I can answer your questions and at least this will begin the discussion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. (Visitors introduced.) For debate on AM3201 to the committee amendments to LB 1021, Senator Coordsen, followed by Senator Wickersham, Chambers, and Bromm. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Listening to Senator Chambers' opening on LB 1021, he piqued my ears a little bit when he started to mention biscuits and chicken wings because, for a person of my background, that had quite a tempting both aroma and taste brought to mind, and if he wanted to do that for noon lunch today I would be glad to share with him. You've heard me quote an old Broadway saying before and it goes something like this: If you can't sing, can't dance, can't act, you can always be a critic. And this issue has always been a troublesome one to me. I've been around here a long time and it appears that much of what we're about is something that might happen, not something that has happened. I think that the members of the body who have served with a number of people would recognize that our reporting statutes as they exist today and as they're complied with today and as they're enforced today have proven to work well over time. Matter of fact, some of the criticism I have read about in the paper about another side of this particular issue, which are gifts from those who are not lobbyists, were discovered because of those very laws that are in place today that created a situation where the recipient of that gift did, in fact, report it to the