

PRESIDENT: Well, I guess maybe that the controversy appears in the form of an amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: That is fine with me. If this amendment is rejected, then it stays at 113, and if you do not adopt the amendment, then it goes back to 178. A strange process, go ahead.

PRESIDENT: Well...in essence, the motion of Senator Beutler, I would like to have your attention, Senator. The Chair interprets your motion in the sense of striking this particular committee amendment in that it replaces the language in the original bill. Is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: No, that is not correct, Mr. Speaker, because the dollar amount is different.

PRESIDENT: Would you state the form of your amendment then? Senator Warner has raised an objection.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Warner's objection would be valid if my amendment did the exact opposite but it is a dollar short of doing the exact opposite and is not, therefore, striking the committee amendment.

PRESIDENT: Very well, in whatever form, the controversy exists and proceed on the amendment, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this issue is very complicated and I want to be sure you understand it and I want to be sure there is a couple of votes on it. I want to be sure that at least on one vote you do understand it because I think that more than any other bill, more than any other episode since the Commonwealth episode, this episode calls into question the integrity of government because what happens here if you don't restore the \$60,000 that the committee struck is that some innocent people are going to be punished because of some internal disagreements between units of state government, because of a disagreement apparently between the Legislature's Appropriations Committee and the probation system. And I think you ought to think very carefully about that because it is not going to be fair to some individuals involved in this particular case. Let's go back for a moment and try to reconstruct exactly what the issue is