

and the senator will accept and I move to adopt, if I can now, his motion to 500 rather than 300.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter, we have a parliamentary problem here in that you have asked for an amendment to an amendment to an amendment, and the rules really don't permit that.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I withdraw it and I will add it later.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Back to Senator Richendifer on your amendment then, is the Chair understand that it is at the 300 level?

SENATOR RICHENDIFER: Correct.

PRESIDENT: All right, fine, let's debate that and then see what happens on that one, but that would have to be, the Richendifer amendment has to be taken care of before we can amend to another figure at this time, at least. Now, I have several lights on here, let me clarify the reason, let me clarify where we are. We are debating the Richendifer amendment, now if you want to debate that amendment you will have to either stand up or turn your light on, if that is what you want to do, but I can't tell whether you want to debate the Richendifer amendment by your light or whether you want to debate the committee amendments, which Senator Luedtke has proposed. Now I have one, two, three, four, five, six lights on. O.K., I will start out then, Senator Kelly? We are debating the Richendifer amendment to the committee amendments to LB568.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and members of the body, I would oppose the Richendifer amendment, as I would oppose the committee amendment as I would oppose the whole bill. I believe at this particular time in our society, we need to strengthen every opportunity we have to put integrity into this society. I have a fear that this whole bill will do away with integrity in the business of writing checks. The Richendifer amendment is certainly more acceptable than the committee amendment, but I see nothing acceptable in the whole field that would do away with your lesson penalty for writing checks. Now we must remember that checks today is a way of life. We are even in the credit cards computer, cash money is not the form in this society. Checks are the form of exchange in this society, and I believe that a bad check is very similar to counterfeiting, and counterfeiting is a felony, and I believe that we should be real careful in tampering with the laws that would do away with the felony in bad checks. Now, I do oppose the amendment and the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The Chair next recognizes Senator DeCamp, and then Kime, and then Clark and then Duis, then Nore. It is the Chair's understanding, I want to make it clear that this is only the Richendifer amendment to the committee amendment that is being debated at this time. Senator DeCamp?

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this is one of the few bills in the committee that I split with the committee on, and I would like to give you the background of all of the check laws that we have on the books in Nebraska now, because it is important that you understand this before you can understand how devastating and how dangerous, not only the Richendifer amendment but the entire bill would be. Back in 1971, Senator Carpenter was concerned about the number of people that were being incarcerated for check offenses. We made a study and we found out that at that time approximately 1/3, something like 33-35% of all people in the Nebraska penitentiary were there on check related offenses, and we found out that some of them were actually there for such things as a two dollar, insufficient fund check, or something like that, and so with the assistance of Senator Carpenter and his guidance, I went to the law school and rewrote all of