

(start belt #5)

as a mother helper up there, and they are from Senator Simpson's district, now we are debating the Richendifer amendment to the committee amendments to LB568, and the Chair next recognizes Senator Kime.

SENATOR KIME: Mr. Chairman and members of this body, I oppose the entire bill, as written now, because I think that it would invite and encourage these bad check writers, as they are now. I don't see anything in this bill that says anything about habitual bad check writers, they are the ones that we want to stop, the habitual, because they continue to regardless of how many times they might go to jail or how many times they are picked up, they will continue to do that, bad check writing gets to be a kind of a disease. Back in my time, in our county, we had several of these bad checks, always have them, small checks, finally we got to discuss this and we sent some of these fellows to the pen, two or three of them, and the bad checks stopped right away. We cut it off about 90% of the bad checks. These people don't like to go to jail, they don't like to go to the penitentiary, and if you will hike this on up to a thousand dollars or to five hundred dollars, you are inviting the bad check writers to go ahead. They will come in from other states because Nebraska will be a good soft spot, you can write up to a thousand dollars worth of bad checks and not have to go to the pen, or you can go to 500 dollars, or you could go to 300 dollars in Nebraska and still not have to go to the pen. Every merchant in the state of Nebraska will be victimized by these, they are already, a good many more are already, and they don't have any means or they don't seem to be able to collect these checks. I certainly oppose this bill, as it is written.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am in kind of a dilemma on the whole bill, I am in more or less inclined to agree with Senator DeCamp. Now we have a bill right now that is over \$75. Now this bill has worked extremely well, just extremely well for the business community. I realize that a man shouldn't be put in the penitentiary and I think that we have got 3 or 400 people in the penitentiary at the present time that I don't think should be there. These are people that have been third offense drunken driving, this type, they are not really criminals to be put in there with criminals. Perhaps they should be incarcerated someplace alright, but not there, but I think it is a bad stigma on the individual. I think that if we could wait until Senator DeCamp could get this information on Monday, which is only 12½% of the people in that penitentiary that are habitual bad check writers, these are the people that we are going to have to segregate from society anyway. It is a national figure that we only have about 10% of those people out there in the penitentiary that have to be segregated from society, about 990 people that really have to be segregated, the others could be rehabilitated. The thing that I am afraid of is that if we pass this check law, we are not really going to take the people out of that penitentiary, the people that we want to take out. Even though there are 300 or 400 that should come out, and I think that we are working on penal reform now. I think that we will get those people out of there in other types of incarceration and rehabilitation, but I don't think that this particular check law is good, I don't think that it is the type of thing that we are going to have to give to the business community, because the check law that we have right now, I don't get a lot of these bad checks, and I am sure that Senator Carpenter does, he is in the liquor business. Grocery stores get a lot of bad checks, short checks, this type of thing, but I don't in mine, because I am in the furniture business and it is a little higher amount of check, and we don't take