

February 14, 1974

PRESIDENT: Motion fails, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature. We're expressing our opinions this morning on Consumer Protection. The validity of it, or the need for it and Senator DeCamp has as he's capable of doing tried to cast this into a very insignificant posture. But to show the seriousness of what I think what was done this morning by the striking of Senator Waldron's amendment and substituting another. It now appears to me to be what I would call the Jesse James Bill. It designed originally was to prevent unethical practices. Since I see the merchants gathering together to defeat this type of regulation, it makes me feel that most of them expect to be engaged in this kind of activity. Contrary to what Senator DeCamp and Senator Nore say this morning, this is not a society where they can be free give and take like you might have in a barter system in a market place. There are some huge corporations that take advantage of entire states. As far as people who cheat, that's ridiculous. As far as crooks disappearing, the President of the United States has not disappeared. And he's not going to disappear. If you are big enough and have enough power, you are not going to go anywhere except further down the path you have already chosen for yourself. When they convict General Electric and Westinghouse

(End Belt #10)

(Start Belt #11)

for price fixing, and put a three million dollar fine on them for violating the law. The Internal Revenue Service allows them to deduct that fine as a business loss. Now what is that? That's taking care of business. I say the people in this body are beholden to interests with money. You don't see the merchants of Omaha, Nebraska, or anywhere else concerned about cluttering up the statute books with unnecessary legislation. The only time they come out of the woodwork, out from under stones, or where ever they spend their time when they are not out duping the public and I'm talking about those who dupe the public and are opposed to the kind of regulations that would stop them from doing it. Whenever those kind of vermin come forth, you can bet that they are sent, because there is some kind of devise which is going to stop them from engaging in activities which are not proper. If a man is honest he does not fear regulations. This is not a situation where an accusation is the same as the conviction. This does not make the citizen the Attorney General. Nor the Court. A citizen cannot merely bring a charge and thereby the merchant be considered guilty, and have to give whatever the customer wants. This body this morning has been swayed by this Merchants Association. They give the same kind of illogical arguments against this bill that they gave against the bill which would authorize the state to create the right of privacy which Senator John DeCamp introduced. Which Senator John DeCamp introduced, which Senator John DeCamp supports very strongly, which Senator John DeCamp was very upset about when the merchants came in and opposed that bill. Because they thought it would interfere with certain practices they used to harass people to sell their products. And I sat on the Judiciary Committee with them. So we can see that this is a game of musical chairs. When it's convenient to say I'm for the people. People stand in this body and say, I'm for the people. When you say you for the people