

now out of jail and he was a fairly successful person in his own field and he said to me he would like to be a real estate agent but he had discovered to his horror that he couldn't be one because he was a felon. That is all it was, he was a felon. Now he can go out and build a house, he can be a contractor. That is right, he can be a contractor and be a felon. It doesn't make any difference but he can't sell the piece of property, can't be a real estate agent. That is right, that is right, Senator Hannibal. He can be a lawyer. He can be a lawyer. In fact, as you may remember G. Bradford Cook was convicted of certain perjury to Congress, as I recall, and his license to practice law was suspended three years, but at the conclusion of that time, he can resume the practice of law. So most licensed professions understand that people do commit serious criminal problems, that people do pay their price for their crimes, and that after the price is paid, if all other factors are all right, that person ought to be able to engage in whatever the licensed profession is because the price was paid. It was paid. So I simply don't think it is appropriate for it to be an unfair trade practice and thereby prevent a person from having a license the fact that they might be a felon and that is what this amendment would do. It would eliminate that provision from the current law.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins, do you wish to speak on the Johnson amendment?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes, and also on the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Very well, go ahead. Senator Johnson, as I read this section of the bill and you referred to a person who has been convicted of a felony, is it your intent to remove that section just for those who have been convicted of a felony while dealing in real estate?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: No, Ma'am, that provision would go out and thus even the worst of felons, the murderers, and the rapists, and the like, just because they have been convicted doesn't automatically preclude them from dealing in real estate for the rest of their lives, for the rest of their life.

SENATOR HIGGINS: So you are talking about any convicted felon then would be able to get a real estate license?