

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: The fact of the felony itself would not be held against him.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I think this is a fair amendment. I know a lot of real estate agents that are felons but have never been brought to court. So I think we ought to have equal justice for all. I am going to support this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler. Okay. May we have order in the Chamber please (gavel). Senator Beutler, do you wish to speak on the Johnson amendment? Senator Vickers, do you wish to speak on the Johnson amendment? Senator Hannibal. Senator DeCamp, do you wish to speak on the Johnson amendment?

SENATOR DECAMP: Well, Mr. President, Senator Johnson has kind of an odd way of selling this particular amendment but the idea has been utilized in a lot of the different licensing proposals and it is important because in this day and age there isn't anything that you don't have to get a license for almost and, of course, this year you have another half a dozen licenses. It used to be standard practice in the laws back when all licensing things were set up to have a stock phrase in there and that standard phrase was no person who has ever been convicted of any crime of moral turpitude, blah, blah, blah, shall be allowed a license. This was generally interpreted to mean a felony of any kind. So somebody that might have had a felony and never ever served a day in jail because of a bad check or something was written out forever of ever being a doctor or a lawyer, and now with all the other licensing things, real estate, you name it. So really, it isn't as dramatic as it sounds. It just means that that record of conviction wouldn't automatically, wouldn't automatically mean that they could never get a license. And I think it is a good amendment. The person who is applying for an application to be a broker is going to have to pass a test, they are going to have to have a decent record, they are going to have meet the same standards as anybody else, and you shouldn't write out your population who has at one time or another had a felony conviction, you shouldn't write them out of being able to make a living which you effectively are doing these days on these license and things simply by retaining this old standard that we used to do fifty or a hundred years ago when it all started. So I would urge you to adopt the