

out with a book, or if I deface a book, or if I'd somehow damage it. It doesn't make any difference what the value of the book is, it is still going to be an infraction. So the amendment is going completely opposite, it seems to me, from what the intent of the original bill was and the intent of the original bill was crazy, in my opinion. I know a lot of us have been contacted by our librarians back in our districts, and they are fine people. They've got a great concern over what is happening to their books and their libraries. But the fact of the matter is, as Senator Beutler pointed out, they spend an inordinate amount of their time trying to get materials out of their libraries, out into people's hands, which is their job, which is the purpose of a library, and they spend very, very little of their time trying to get them back. Now they want us to create special legislation to slap people on the head a little more if they take books out of a library. But I can't understand why the philosophy should be any different if I walk out of a library with a book, intending on stealing it, than if I walk out of a book store with a book, intending on stealing it. In either case it is stealing. In either case it is punishable under our existing laws. We don't need to create another piece of legislation or another place in the statutes to make it a penalty. But to lower the penalty so it's only an infraction, as the amendment is doing, making it less of a penalty than it is under the normal circumstances, or than it is right now, is even crazier than the original bill was. I urge you to really, seriously look at those amendments. I urge you to reject the amendments. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman, please.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, I use the Lincoln Library a lot. At the present time I have seven books from the Lincoln Library. During the interim, when I'm home, I read maybe five books a week and I use them a lot. I don't see any problems. But what I'd like to call to your attention is some of these amendments, any person who unlawfully or maliciously writes upon, cuts, tears, defaces, disfigures, soils, obliterates, breaks or destroys library material shall be guilty of an infraction. How are you going to prove that? We have enough in the courts without trying to get some more. We go to another one. Any person who willfully conceals material with the intent of depriving, or removes shall be guilty. How are you going to