

listening.

PRESIDENT: Well let me see if we can do something about that.

SENATOR DECAMP: I doubt it.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Order in the Chamber, please. If you would tone down the level of your conversation so that we could hear the speaker. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I have been a respecer, admirer and of record a supporter of the press probably as much or more than anyone and, yes, I've been vilified by them on occasion. This issue has nothing to do with that. What you heard here today, when nobody was listening, and what was testified to in committee is some of the most incredible and arrogant testimony you'll ever hear and it amounts to this. The law in Nebraska is unconstitutional, but so what? Until such time as we have to give it up we want to use it. Now here are the facts. And as I say, any lawyer that knows the issue, stand up and say I'm wrong if I'm wrong. Fact number one, Nebraska's law is the broadest and vaguest of all the 50 states in the United States of America. Number two, Nebraska's law, shield law, purports to give absolute immunity from any reporter or anybody associated with the press, of ever under any circumstances having to ever reveal any source even if they don't even print the stuff, it's absolute, total grant purporting to say they never have to reveal anything. Fact number three, that runs contradictory to the U.S. Constitution as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court particularly in the case of Branzburg. Fact number four, Senator Hoagland and the attorney for the Press Association acknowledge that you can't do that, that there can be no such constitutional grant of authority, but their argument is until such time as a court comes in and finds the case to strike it down, we want to use it. Now specifically in committee they testified one of the reasons or the main reason they want this is, for example, radio programs or TV programs or people call in and supposedly report somebody is a criminal or somebody is doing something and they don't want to reveal it and most important, they want to be able to tell that caller, you are under no obligation to ever have your source revealed, anything you say to us can never under any circumstances be revealed. I want to read you what the U.S.