

Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp, and after that the speaking order is Senator Higgins and Senator Chambers. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President and members, I'm going to use an example to show you, in my opinion, a violation of this law or what would be a violation. Senator Beutler, a few minutes ago, stated if you adopt this amendment you are making this a right to lie state, that is a lie. You are establishing the First Amendment as it existed for 200 years before this thing went into effect. You don't have any more right to lie than you did before. You still have the liable laws, the slander laws and all of these things that apply. You have not made it "a right to lie," that is a lie and it is knowingly done because if anybody should know what the Constitution and what the law of the land is it is a lawyer from Yale or Harvard. This identical provision, in New York, was declared unconstitutional because, as they said, you are trying to limit debate, discussion and argument in the one area where it needs to be more than any other place. That is the political arena which is the debating place of the...it is the market place of ideas. It is where you discuss ideas and where you debate it. That is where it is all at. If you give a more stringent standard there than you do to the general public, you've really set back the political system. If anything the standards in debate should be more liberal where more ideas can come out, more discussion and disagreement. So what about, what about the examples I used? Anybody that wants to abuse this thing can. Why? Because all you do is file a complaint with the Accountability Commission and later, and you get your front page story, and later, six months later the Accountability Commission, who may not be familiar with the subject at all, they decide whether you correctly stated whether abortion is sin, or murder, or whatever. They use their conclusions. It is the public who has the right to judge whether somebody is accurate on a particular bill, or the effects of a certain law, not some accountability commission six months after the fact. Senator Beutler certainly knows of the existence of the First Amendment. I'm not sure what he is afraid of. The Accountability Commission should not be in a position to intimidate, threaten and limit, in effect, debate and discussion on issues. Does Initiative 300 prohibit this or that? Some would say it does, some would