about the bracketing?   Senator Pappas, about the bracketing?
All right.   Senator Chambers.

SENATOR   CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman   and   members of   the
Legislature, there was a guy who said he was always right,
except one time. He was right and he thought he was wrong.
I did put the right section on my amendment, so I am
correct. It was misheard, out in the corridor, by those who
were really trying to be helpful and make sure that I got
the right section.   But the amendment, as drafted, is
correct. The section is correct. To be frank, I don't know
why we need to bracket it if you want to do something about
this matter. The reason I would want to deal with the
penalty provision is that we cannot, I don't think, draft a
definition of a conflict of interest involving a senator for
the purpose of imposing a criminal sanction for a vote.
That is what we are talking about, keep that in mind. We
are talking only about a vote cast on the floor of the
Legislature. In my opinion, no matter what the issue there
should be no penalty for the mere casting of that vote. If
evidence could be found to show that behind that vote was a
trading of your office, taking a bribe, or any of those
matters, the law will not be changed. Prosecution could
still occur in those cases. I'm talking only about a vote.
I don't really see the need to bracket at this point
because, if an attempt is going to be made to draft a
definition of a conflict of interest, we will talk forever
about that. Either you believe that a person should be
subjected to a criminal penalty for a vote, or you don't.
If you think that a person should be subjected to a criminal
penalty, then you will reject this amendment. If you think
that a senator should be free to vote on any issue before
the Legislature, just as we are free to say anything on the
floor of the Legislature without being subjected to any
criminal penalty, then you will vote for this amendment.
But what I am saying is that I'm opposed to our bracketing
it. I would like us to accept this amendment. Remember the
bill, if the amendment is adopted, cannot be voted on today.
Anybody who has any other problem would have time, while the
amendment is being added to the bill, to do any discussing
or whatever else they feel is necessary.   But I hope you
will adopt this amendment to serve notice to everybody that
the Legislature is not going to subject itself or any member
to a criminal penalty for any vote cast in this body.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, did you wish to speak