

on his motion.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Let me explain once again what this amendment does because I think Senator Higgins, by her comments, indicated that she doesn't really understand either the cap itself or what this amendment would do. Senator Hannibal is offering an amendment to this bill, a rewrite of this bill that says that nobody can recover more than a million dollars against a political subdivision, doesn't mind if their injuries are \$3 million, it doesn't mind if they're going to need \$30,000 the rest of their life for care because they're a quadriplegic. The most they can ever get is a million dollars. It doesn't matter if they're a brain damaged baby born blind and brain damaged with a life expectancy of 70 years because of the negligence of a physician working for a political subdivision, all they can get is a million dollars. Now, I think that's an unfortunate policy misstatement to do that because there are many, many kinds of cases where an individual ought to be able to allow...recover more than that if it is justified to recover more than that. All this amendment does, however, is it accepts that policy statement that all you can recover is a million dollars, but it says, let's be sure that value doesn't depreciate, let's be sure that if Senator DeCamp's 5-year-old child, for instance, is hit by Jerry Prazan's car, let's say Jerry Prazan parks his car on the top of a hill and doesn't put it in park and the thing comes five blocks down the hill and it is going 30 miles an hour, Jerry Prazan inside talking to some senator to support this bill, and it hits Senator DeCamp's 5-year-old with her lunch box, and she is on her way to school and she is in a crosswalk and it knocks her against a telephone pole and she breaks her neck and she is a quadriplegic for 75 years because that is her life expectancy, 75 years. And Jerry Prazan is saying, a million dollars, that's it, even though the City of Omaha was clearly negligent, it's a million dollars. And further more, Jerry Prazan is saying, 20 years from now when that million dollars is worth quarter of a million dollars, Senator DeCamp, that's all your daughter's quadriplegia is worth, is a quarter of a million dollars. And the fact that a million dollars may have depreciated in 20 years to a quarter of a million dollars, and let me remind you, Senator Higgins, that in the last 19 years a million dollars has depreciated to about \$310,000. And 25 years from now a million dollars could be worth a quarter of a million dollars. All this is saying is, let's keep the playing