

Judge Macken, out in my area, who has been on the commission and he was wholeheartedly for it. I understand that Judge Bob Moran out in Alliance who I have great confidence in, and in my opinion is one of the great attorneys, wholeheartedly endorses this. They know about it. Now I realize that everything isn't going to be perfect but I do think we ought to get it on the books so that attorneys and judges will have some time to prepare themselves. If judges need sometime to prepare instructions which I know they will have to do, then let's give them the time that they need to prepare. Okay, several years ago, we were faced with the court reform bill. None of the judges and attorneys that I know of were gung ho for it or clamoring for it, but after it went into effect, they realized that we were getting better service by having this passed. I think this is another one. Senator Chambers, I go along with you. I have only been on it three years but I am sold on it, and if you go again next year, I will be with you trying to help again. I think this is something that we should do now and get it in force so that the attorneys can prepare themselves for complying with it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to start at the beginning and maybe reach the end. First of all a review of what the code was that we're replacing and what the code basically is now in general, the criticisms that have been leveled against the new code and our answers to that criticism, and finally, for the record, for Senator Carsten, some others, a promise and a commitment that has been agreed upon between the various people that have been working on this code. The code we are replacing, 1870's it was written. It was a criminal code that is over 100 years old, and in the 1870's, the people were very concerned about who was chasing whose wife, who was swearing in public on the streets, who was living with whom. Their problems of telephones, computer crime, white collar crime, corporate crime and all these things didn't exist for all practical purposes in the 1870's. In 1970, they do exist and the person that robs a bank through artifice and fraud and technology is just as guilty as the man who rode in on his horse and held it up with a gun. The new code deals with all these things from white collar crime to computer crime to telephone crime to all the things that create a problem where one person or company injures another person or company. Now that is all we are really doing in the code. What are the changes? What are the criticisms? One of the biggest criticism is that it hasn't had enough study. For seven years during the session and during the summer, the interim, we have had more hearings than any other piece of legislation ever to come before the Nebraska Legislature. The argument that the amendments that were put on on the floor did not have a public hearing is simply a falsehood. Every single amendment proposed had been before the committee in previous years either in separate bills, remember this final criminal code was the final of about a half a dozen. Each year we had a version which incorporated some of these ideas so they had not one or two hearings but probably a half a dozen on every single amendment that ever went into this code.