

the imagination be said to favor rapists, assaulters, and all the rest, they oppose this bill because in dealing with the area of rape charges, trials, and convictions or attempts to get convictions, their experience teaches them that a law like this would never be applied. So you know what you are doing as a matter of practical fact, a person who under the present law would be charged with first-degree sexual assault is not going to be charged with that now. Senator Duis is going to ask you to give that person a free ride home. You have to have a law which is going to be applied or you in fact have no law at all. And rape is one of the most vicious crimes that can be committed. But, because of its viciousness, and because of the desire to adequately punish a person, we cannot impose a sanction so harsh that a prosecution will not even be brought under the law. There has been no complaints by prosecutors, judges, or the Rape Crisis people about the ineffectiveness of the present laws in terms of a sentence, because they know that there is not a great amount of sympathy for a woman who charges a man with having raped her. Why, I have even heard jokes among senators who on a bill like this would say, and I am not talking about Senator Duis now, it's his bill, I have to keep distinct between what I am saying in general and the remarks I am making about the bill. Some of you have made jokes about accusations of rape. So, on the one hand, senators don't even as a whole consider it the kind of thing where the prosecutor ought to immediately take the word of the woman and file the charge. Put her through the wringer. Run her through the mill. Trot her through her paces, and let's see if she can stand up under the pressure. Now, on the one hand, that is the general attitude. Then, on another, when we are dealing before the public, we want to say that we have so much concern about this issue that we are going to enact this type of law. You can bring it out on the floor if you want to, and you can pass it, but watch it in its operation. The easiest thing is to bring it out here. To speak against this bill means that you are for rape, which is preposterous. But we know that the public does not think clearly, does not think in a discriminating fashion, and by discriminating, when I use that term, I mean separating things according to where they ought to be separated and placed where they ought to be placed. I am opposed to bringing the bill out of committee; I am opposed to the bill, and I think you ought to give serious consideration before you make this move. In closing, I will reemphasize this point: Various women's organizations concerned about the victims of rape, the crime of rape, the prosecutions, the nature of the trials, oppose this bill. It will not accomplish the stated intent. What it will do: It will prevent prosecutions of first-degree sexual assault from occurring at all.

**SPEAKER:** The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle. Before I do, Senator Kahle, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Senator Bereuter to introduce 18 seniors from Concordia Teacher's College in Seward, and one teacher, Julie Janss, assistant professor, who are in the north balcony. Would the students from Concordia and Julie Janss stand, please, and be recognized? We welcome you to your Legislature this morning. Now, Senator Kahle.

**SENATOR KAHLE:** Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I want to support Senator Duis in his efforts to try to get this bill before you. I am not at all surprised at Senator Chamber's talk; this is the one he gives every day when we talk about law,