

SENATOR DUIS: I would certainly hope so, but I'm trying to make it positive in every respect and I want the bill on the floor as I presented it but I said, if it was necessary after it is out here, in order to get its passage, then I could...

SENATOR BARNETT: Okay. Can I ask Senator Kahle a question?

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Kahle, will you respond?

SENATOR BARNETT: Senator Kahle, LB 555, have you read that bill?

SENATOR KAHLE: Yes, part of it.

SENATOR BARNETT: Okay. Do you understand that if you accept that bill, to raise it on the floor as Senator Duis has it written, I'll give you time to get it. It's 555. On the second page where it strikes out "for a second time", do you see that?

SENATOR KAHLE: Yes.

SENATOR BARNETT: Do you know that that says that any person who shall be found guilty of sexual assault in the first degree shall be sentenced to not less than twenty-five years?

SENATOR KAHLE: That is correct.

SENATOR BARNETT: Okay. Do you understand what statutory rape is?

SENATOR KAHLE: All I understand is that if this law had been followed there would be at least one or two women in Lexington that would probably still be alive.

SENATOR BARNETT: It wouldn't have helped their cause at all. That's what I thought. It wouldn't have helped their cause at all because they plea bargained that down to second degree. That would have never helped this cause. Now if they take... what I want to point out to you and this is the frustrations I have with what Senator Duis is trying to do. You take your high schools. You have a high school senior who is eighteen, you have a sophomore that is fifteen and they are found in a park, both willing to commit sexual intercourse. If they are found by the law, they have no excuse. It's statutory rape, minimum twenty-five years for the high school senior. That's what that bill says. Now if that's what you want, then vote to raise it. I don't know how much plainer I can make it.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, reluctantly I rise in opposition to Senator Duis' proposal here today and I don't think that any member in this body can question my conservative credentials, but I hope that you paid very good and strict attention to some of the things that were said by Senator Chambers, Senator Barnett in his opening remarks and the remarks that he just completed. It is a terrible crime, we know that. We're overreacting in hysteria, emotionally. I think that the criminal code presently provides the penalties that Senator Duis is attempting to accomplish with the raising of this bill. I have some very