

amendment. Would you please listen, Ernie...Ernie. I believe, as I say, I believe it's reasonable. I believe what he is suggesting is reasonable, but I have to oppose it. Why? Because in the vast gulf between Mr. Bucchino, Omaha World Herald Editorials, the other side that would move it down to a Class III or IV misdemeanor, I said, okay, I will go...I will go to the very highest grade misdemeanor there is but that is the farthest I think it's sane or reasonable to go from proof standpoint, from the prosecutor's standpoint, all the aspects, and so reluctantly I oppose it though I had originally proposed it. In order to keep my word I have to stick by the highest grade misdemeanor and in order I think to hold onto the bill and make it fly. So I reluctantly urge you to vote against it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I was not privy to any of the negotiations and I can understand Senator DeCamp trying to deliver on what he promised in the way of a compromise, but I and nobody else on the floor is bound by that and Senator DeCamp is aware of that. I'll tell you again that gambling has been accepted by the state as proper. If I go out to Aksarben, which I wouldn't do, but if I would go to Aksarben, and, as Senator Venditte pointed out, drop \$10,000, there is no penalty at all, but if I bet \$300 then I can get up to a year in the penitentiary. So how many of you would say that this penalty that I'm recommending of a possible six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine is not sufficiently harsh for a \$300 bet? Remember the bottom amount of this bracket of betting, which can put you in jail for six months under my amendment would be \$300. I think the amendment is valid. Senator DeCamp agrees that the amendment is valid, but he is bound by a compromise that he had made which is not dealing with the merits of the bill or the amendment I'm offering. So, what I'm asking the Legislature to do, since gambling has been approved by the state, pari-mutuel betting, the bingo, the pickle cards and all these other things, we are still dealing in this bill with putting a penalty on some people who gamble under certain circumstances, so I'm saying this amendment does not do away with the punishment, it simply reduces it, and I still feel that the punishment involved with the amendment that I'm offering is excessive. It is not proper, but trying to get what might be obtainable, I'm offering this amendment. It would reduce the penalty for making a \$300 bet from a possible year in the penitentiary and a \$1,000 fine