

with Senator John this morning. I said, John, I said, I'm going to offer this particular and I said I hope you could support it. He said it's going to hurt my bill. I said, John it's not going to hurt your bill...it's something that the people in the city of Omaha law enforcement personnel need and want. No, no, Senator Fowler won't like that...he said, it's going to throw a wrinkle in my bill. Well, who is Senator Fowler? I don't trust Senator Fowler to be perfectly honest with you. As a matter of fact I... well anyway. Ladies and gentlemen, and members of the Legislature, what does the amendment do? Well, the amendment does simply this. It says that if a girl is selling or soliciting herself, that the penalty provision would now be increased from \$100 to up to, now it doesn't say 300, it says up to 300. The judge could offer a 25 or a 50 dollar fine, and the second hands-on kind of item that the law enforcement personnel need is the jail time, and it's up to seven days in jail. It changes it from a citation to IIIA misdemeanor. I know, Senator Fowler, you can talk to your courts right now. I'm sure you're not going to vote for it. But nonetheless, Mr. Anderson, Chief of Police in the City of Omaha, his Assistant Deputy Chief, Jack Swanson, called and asked if I would introduce this particular amendment to a bill that's germane and I believe it is germane at this point in time. I did check with the Clerk and I spoke with several members of the Douglas County delegation. They're all certainly in favor of the bill, and I...we need it. Senator John, do you know what's happened since this law has been passed in the City of Omaha? Well, we've had people, and I mentioned this earlier... we've had girls from all over the country, literally all over the country who are coming into Omaha and selling themselves. Why? Well, certainly, it's obvious, the reason why. Because the penalty is almost nil. A \$100 to a prostitute is like a quarter to you and me. What does an officer do? All he can do is hand her a citation and say, if you are convicted, and she doesn't...and she doesn't go to jail. Now what happens if that girl doesn't sign that citation? How is the officer going to prove that he had actually caught her in the process? I don't know what the answer is to that question, ladies and gentlemen. If I were a prostitute, I certainly wouldn't sign that, because I'm just...I'm convicting myself. I'm telling the judge that I'm guilty. I don't think we have anything under existing law that says that that person must sign that citation. The same is true with marijuana, Senator Fowler. Those young people today convicted of smoking marijuana, one ounce or less, are given a citation. Now if those young people knew the law well enough, Senator Fowler, they could