

no belief in their ability to understand the law. We scoff at their opinions and at their language and so on. Now, Senator Vickers is saying that attorneys, in this case county attorneys because they are elected have a good deal of medical expertise and that they should be the ones who when they come in to a scene and see a dead body that they have the skills and they have the knowledge to decide how that death occurred. Now, I know several people that went to law school and they go out and they become county attorneys, and those people have no knowledge, no skills or understanding that would help them make that determination. The thing that impressed the study committee that looked at the case, the law enforcement in Nebraska in this, is that there is now expertise, that there is a thing called forensic pathology, that there are certain skills, powers of observation, things to look for, training and knowledge that can unravel mysteries, that can solve problems, that can observe things that none of the rest of us nor any county attorney would be able to see. That's why we have this bill, because the county attorneys, although they are trained in law, are not trained in medicine and we believe that it is time that that sort of medical expertise be utilized in the State of Nebraska in the area of death. I would oppose the Vickers amendment. It gets to the heart of the issue. I, for one, believe that this state needs to bring medical expertise into the investigation of deaths and let county attorneys deal with the legal questions for which they are trained.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Carsten, do you want to speak to the Vickers amendment?

SENATOR CARSTEN: No, I wanted to ask Senator Fowler a question on the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay. Senator Stoney, do you wish to speak...okay, Senator Reutzel, do you wish to speak to the...Senator DeCamp, do you wish to speak? Senator Chambers, do you wish to speak to the....

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Just briefly, Mr. Chairman, to endorse what has been said by the other opponents to Senator Vickers amendment and to add this based on what Senator Kahle mentioned about the next bill coming up. Senator Vickers, the county attorneys now are not even well trained in some instances in the law itself. They don't keep up with current judicial decisions, changes in the law, and in many instances they don't understand the existing law let alone changes. So when you have an area