

shoplifting as we have it with the merits on both sides of it, weighing the cases where the photographic thing would be used and remember this wouldn't be used in every case. I think if you weigh the things and you've got to conclude this is probably a fair and reasonable way to handle some types of evidence and so we would hope that the shoplifting aspect would be left in the legislation. I have more letters from Lincoln merchants, Omaha merchants. I'm not going to take your time and read them but they say basically the same thing. A fur coat ended up in one of them, you know, held up for a year and a half and then somehow came back and looked like it had been used for the last year and a half. It was about a \$7,000 fur coat, little things like this. The photographing of evidence, getting it back into the cycle of commerce is pretty important and indeed, as Senator Chambers suggested, it was requested by the merchants and let anybody not be deceived, this is a request from business and commerce groups in the State of Nebraska, business entities, particularly our retailers to do something about the problem of shoplifting and I don't think there is anybody in the room that would doubt that with some of the economic and hard times that are coming down the pike there is a tendency for shoplifting to increase. The sheet that we've passed out, for example, indicates that one of the biggest reasons for the failure of small businesses particularly is that shoplifting. And remember this, everybody in this room and everybody in this state pays for the shoplifting price. It is added on to the merchandise somewhere. We're all paying for it so I would encourage the Legislature to experiment and it is not that big an experiment. First of all, with getting the crime of shoplifting identified and defined for the first time, standardized so we know what it amounts to in this state and second of all, by having this auxiliary tool for the law enforcement, for the prosecution, for the attorneys on both sides to work with, to make the system run a little more efficiently. I would urge you to reject the Chambers amendment, at the same time I full well understand his reasons for offering it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol, we're speaking to the amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would rise to oppose Senator Chambers' amendment as specifically pointed out by Senator DeCamp. If we like to have retail stores and retail merchants which we do as a convenience to us, it is necessary that they make a profit. When their profit is eroded by those who steal, you and I who don't steal make up for that loss of profit simply by making it easier for merchants to get a hold of their material especially when it is expensive as outlined by Senator DeCamp, fur coats, silverware, jewelry, things of that nature that do have a great value. Thirdly, when the