January 27, 1982

you they don't have to be more specific to prosecute. This new language that we are adding in this proposed amendment is covered by theft by deception in 28-512 and is probably covered by the existing language in that very statute, 28-515, and I think what is happening is that in many parts of the state the county attorneys are copping out because for one reason or another they don't want to prosecute and they are telling you they can't prosecute because they are not sure, the language is not clear enough, and then we trot back up here at the Legislature and go through a bunch of hocus-pocus to make the language more specific so we can go back and put the political pressure on the county attorney that he should have had put on him in the first place. I think that is what is happening on a number of these things. I think we have got to stop that and we have got to tell the county attorney to prosecute the statute, and if he doesn't want to do that, we have got to get a new county attorney. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would just like to comment on Senator Beutler's comments in regard to the process. I continue to believe that this Legislature operates in the most outstanding method of any Legislature in the country in that we do have public hearings on every bill. Now if we are not going to be able to offer amendments to those bills, our process is going to come to a complete standstill and there is no way it can operate. We do the very best job we can in holding public hearings but we cannot hold a public hearing on every amendment. There is no way that a bill can be introduced so that no amendments are allowed and that is basically what Senttor Beutler is saying. I do not agree with that. I think the process is legitimate, is good, and that some of these amendments do have to be discussed on the floor and accepted by the body in that manner.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Chambers, did you want to talk again?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, a moment ago I indulged myself as I don't usually do. I do have a deep feeling about what happened in Omaha but Senator Beutler's comments brought me back down to earth, made me take another look at what my responsibility as a legislator is, and I have to agree with him. I don't think this is the method or the means that ought to be employed to bring this amendment...and I will tell you why it is offered as amendment and not a bill. When a