February 3, 1982

handed you portions of a study program put together by the U. S. Department of Transportation telling the officers item by item what they must be able to testify to in order to obtain a conviction. The emphasis is placed on the fact that moving radar is highly unstable and unreliable if certain precautions are not taken. Because the environment in which the radar is functioning changes as the vehicle of the officer driving the car moves, it is necessary to make certain that in the location where the reading is taken there is no outside interference that would cause a false reading on the radar device. This is why the courts themselves have required before and after testing of the radar. What you will have in this bill is a blueprint for the officer and for those who train that officer in what the courts require for a conviction. I included letters from radar manufacturers who state the sequence for obtaining these convictions. I even included something from the State Highway Safety Commission, or whatever they are called, about the necessity of having these tuning forks calibrated because the court requires them as an external test for these radars before and after use. If the tuning fork is not accurate, there are problems that evolve. So although Senator Hoagland may be enamored of the mystic of the machine, and especially radar, the courts are not. The courts require certain things. Now if you don't put these requirements into the law, then you simply allow the State Patrol to use an erroneous procedure based on emoional considerations rather than legal. They will continue to lose cases because they will say the Legislature told me that it is not necessary to test this device before and after use, even though the courts in Nebraska have established that as a requirement. They will be able to say I need not make a visual observation because ...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...the Legislature says that I don't and they will lose on that score, tco. If they do not have the external test, it is over immediately. Remember, I have had experience in the courts. If you don't accept this provision as Senator Hoagland has pointed out, the courts will put it in anyway whenever somebody comes before them but the patrolman will not have the notice in advance of what is required of him. He might even think that despite what he is taught, what the Legislature has said would overbalance that which it does not.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp, do you wish to close? SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature,

785