

somebody and the real piece of evidence on which the prosecution is based may be available but it need not be produced. There is nothing in the bill that says that the real piece of evidence is not accessible or easily available before you can use these photographs. It is up to the discretion of the one bringing the charge. So I would call in the police officer and make him submit to cross examination as I am entitled to do. I would call in the photographer and make him or her be subjected to cross examination as I am entitled to do. I would call in the merchant whose name is on this photograph certifying to one thing or another and cross examine him or her as I am entitled to do and I could run some people through the wringer under this bill who couldn't be wrung through the wringer under the law as it is now. Because if an employee witnesses shoplifting, the employee is the one who testifies. If the merchants name is on here certifying the value then I can haul his rear end before the bar of justice and run him through the wringer as the law, if you pass it this way, will enable me to do and don't think attorneys will not be cognizant of what I am saying and suggesting. And then when the merchants come trotting in here again saying it is so hard to prosecute shoplifting now because we've got to leave our businesses and go down there and we want the law changed, tell them no. You made your bed, now sleep in it. You were smarter than the legislators. You persuaded them to change the laws of evidence. They did it for you, now you live with what you have produced. But what I would suggest before we reach that spot is to simply strike this provision from this bill and let it be what it purported to be in the first place, establishment of the crime of shoplifting by defining and specifying the things that are included under that term. So I hope you will listen to what I have said. I hope that you will understand what it is that I am trying to do. It is not to make it easy for people to shoplift. It is not to encourage shoplifting. It is an attempt to maintain the integrity of the law. So I ask that you adopt this amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Chambers has a strange way of making it seem like everybody that is trying to stop shoplifting or the merchants who are the victims or the county attorney who might be in a position to having to prosecute a case, somehow when he finishes, they all appear to be the criminals, the greedy merchants, the Sodom and Gomorrah store and so on and so forth. Now, fellows, I think it is time we'd better start realizing a few things. Shoplifting does exist. It is the biggest, most costly crime in this state in terms of absolute dollars and it is done on a pretty wide scale both