

and vote on this amendment, I am going to talk....

SENATOR CLARK: We have got three other lights on.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay, then I will talk on it. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I want you to listen and I mean it. I am as concerned about child abuse and adult abuse as anybody else but not once on the floor have we talked about the real fundamental issue in this bill, and why I was tempted to kill the bill and why I think you better start looking at it. I am willing to keep the bill alive. I am willing to try to do something about adult abuse and child abuse and we need to. But in moving into this area we have played with some very fundamental constitutional concepts and they go something like this. We say, number one, we have a problem, people abuse their children. Number two, we don't know how to get them identified. So, number three, we create a new crime and the crime no longer is child abuse. That is separate over here. Crime no longer is adult abuse. That is over there. The crime now is one and a half million Nebraskans who suspect that somebody else by their standards in their head are doing something wrong in raising their children from a neglect standpoint, or whatever, and admittedly it will help cure child abuse, but it sure do play with the Constitution awful close and fast. And I realize we have to maybe do these things to get some of these problems solved, but what prevents you once you set up the precedent, the principle, the concept of ordering everybody to subjectively evaluate everybody else, what prevents you from them saying, well, we have got a problem on drug abuse, or we have got a problem on alcoholism. We have got a problem on adultery. We have got a problem on anything. We order people now under pain of crime to report on their neighbor. The last place they had that system in effect pretty heavily and still exists is a place called Russia. Children came in to school and they had to say what their parents said at home that might be dangerous to the state. It is the exact identical principle. That is what we are doing. Look at your bill and read it. And as I say, I realize the problems full well but you are playing with heavy stuff, the Constitution, a whole change of principle. Now if we have to do this, then let's do it pretty carefully. Senator Landis treats with almost casualness the fact that well we are making a little alteration in the clergy. Yes, a little alteration, two hundred cotton pickin' years history in this country of the sanctity of the confessional for Catholics and the confidentiality of the minister, I