

And if you have any questions, then I am prepared to answer them.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Chambers amendment to LB 116. Senator Lindsay, followed by Senator Abboud.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Mr. President and members, I rise in opposition to the Chambers amendment. I think there is a few things I'd like to point out to justify my opposition. First, LB 116 is a gender-neutral bill. It does not specify that one party or the other commits the crime, whether the man requests the act of prostitution or whether the woman requests the act of prostitution, it doesn't matter, either one can commit the crime. This is not an attack on the defenseless woman that Senator Chambers refers to. It can go both ways and it does, in fact, in Omaha go both ways. The Judiciary Committee hearing, there was testimony there that indicated that there are more men arrested for prostitution in Omaha in 1988 than were women. This is not a bill that attacks just that one segment of society, it does hit both sides. As a matter of fact, one of the police strategies in Omaha now is to try to dissuade the customers from going to the prostitutes, that by doing that, it makes the business a little more difficult. Number two, I think that if we read the Chambers amendment, we'll see that this will negate enforceability of the law. Number one, I think it is broad enough that it will prohibit a police officer engaged in a sting operation from testifying against the person involved in the sting operation. I don't think that there are a lot of other ways to prosecute a prostitution charge than the use of a sting operation, the use of a wire or the particular problem that Senator Chambers is trying to approach and that is the defendant, or the John turning state's witness. I think this amendment is so broad that it is going to prevent enforcement of the bill. It will effectively...it will effectively legalize prostitution in Nebraska because it will render the bill unenforceable. I would urge you to reject the Chambers amendment for those reasons.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise to support Senator Chambers' basic intention that prostitution is indeed a tragic situation. It is unfortunate that individuals, for money, have to sell themselves. I don't know what the best