

as attentive as we needed to be, therefore, we failed to enact legislation that would protect the children. But when it comes to our attention that such a deficiency exists in the law, we try to rectify it. We're doing the opposite thing by this bill in its present form. We are saying in the legislation that you pedophiles, you sadists, whatever we're going to call you, if you are smart enough to put a child 14 years old and younger into this situation, you're immune from prosecution, and that is a terrible thing for this Legislature to do. Rather than set up that class which has no voice, which has no person of their age on the floor of this Legislature to speak for them to plead with us, to appeal to us, to cry to us, to show us their wounds and their injuries and the brutality inflicted on them regularly, rather than create that class and put an additional burden on them by this legislation, I would seek to kill this bill. And let those adults stay in that class of those who need corroboration so that they then could be brought around to say that the same consideration I want for myself as an adult, I want for these children. That is all that my amendment would do. As far as children being unreliable witnesses, adults have demonstrated that they are unreliable and Oliver North who stood up in front of a congressional committee and raised his hand and made the hearts, Senator Langford, of every dyed-in-the-wool, right-wing conservative proud, swore to tell the truth and now, from what I hear on the radio today, he lied. He is now saying that Reagan is involved in all this, but that's not what he said under oath. So how much more unreliable can you be than that? A child is not going to testify before everybody in the world. But we have concrete examples of adults lying, so we cannot use what we would call the basic unreliability of a child as a witness as a justification for setting them aside as a class to be sexually assaulted without recourse unless the child can contrive to overcome the hurdle of corroboration. There is no corroboration required in any other crime against a child. That is the argument that Senator Kristensen gave and he is correct in the conclusion that he drew from that. If we're not requiring corroboration in other crimes, then don't require it in the crime of sexual assault, but his proviso that he doesn't agree with too strongly, I might add, is that that will apply only to adults. When we come to children we will not require corroboration in other crimes besides those of a sexual nature and then we brand them legislatively as a group of lying, unreliable little suckers who ought to be victimized by those who sexually assault children. I hope that we will adopt this amendment, then I can easily support the bill. The final