

the terrible thing about this kind of legislating is. Police officers are given no more authority under this amendment than they already have, number one. Number two, there is nothing in this amendment that would cause them to make an arrest in a situation where they won't make an arrest now. And, number three, the whole thing is a hoax and a sham and those who say they're concerned not only I think about the physical well-being, but the mental and psychological tranquility of the people in these situations, those who claim to be concerned about that...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...are belying that supposed concern by an amendment like this. You are telling them that somehow you're giving them more protection than they currently have under the law. That is absolutely, unequivocally not true. So why put into the statute something that is not going to give more protection if protection is what we're after? Frankly, I don't know. But I do know that it is very bad legislating. I think it is not dealing with the public that is affected by this kind of legislation in a straightforward fashion. If you adopt my amendment and strike that sentence, you're not going to change really their amendment as it applies to the current law, and if you add their amendment to the bill, you're not going to change the current law. So I think now that they have had their discussion, the Pirsch-Bernard-Stevens amendment should be defeated.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, it's scary, Ernie, if I'm going to start to agree with you early on Monday morning of a week, but I think Senator Chambers is correct here. We make some policy decisions in the law about when you can go and arrest somebody and we can arrest them if they've committed a felony, any felony at all. And if a police officer thinks they committed that felony, they can go and arrest them without an arrest warrant. And we say that misdemeanors are a little different because they are not quite as serious. In other words, if I see somebody out making a U turn where they shouldn't on the highway, we don't want the police officers to have the authority and the ability to go out and arrest those people and put them in jail. Why? Because it's not that serious, it's a burden on the system and there is