

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I will explain what this is doing. In the bill, I'm on page 3, line 17, where it refers us to a section of the statute, 28-319. Oh, did I mean 28-319? I meant 28-320 that should be.

CLERK: 28-320?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, if you'll allow me to correct the reference. In 28-320 my amendment would have the effect of removing subsection (3) which is the misdemeanor. And, if the bill is passed, it will deal only with those felony offenses, and I have a problem even with 28-320, because all that's required is the touching. See, a man, and usually we're thinking about a man who has done this, although a woman, not too many days ago, was convicted of sexual assault against some boys, one was her nephew and maybe one her son, but that was in Lancaster County, so women sometimes are charged, too. So, if I say a man, I'm not being chauvinistic, but that's where most of the cases would occur. A man could beat a woman to a pulp, and maybe there was no sexual contact intended at all, but that could be alleged, and that could make it a much more serious offense, and maybe that is what the Legislature would want to do. And I'm not saying any of these things that people do to others are good. But there are so many times that we pass laws and it allows a heaping up of one thing on another out of one transaction, and it can so easily allow one thing to be labeled as something else. And the real problem that I see with the bill, even if some of the concerns that I've mentioned about the existing law were taken out, in cases that are not stale, you know that would be brought within the three years, there have been problems of children being coached, of women being coerced by family members or others. And, if you stretch it out an additional two years, Senator Langford indicated that it gives the prosecutor more time, but it also gives certain powerful families, especially in small towns, a chance to bring more coercion and pressure on a county attorney. And if they have one they don't like anyway then they can make him bring a bad case. And there are county attorneys who will yield to this pressure. So the bill, on its face, if it could do only what the people who want the bill would have it do, there would be no problem. And this amendment that I'm offering deals with just a