

May 11, 1989

LB 211

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. It won't sway me on this bill. I am as concerned about children as anybody in this body but I am also concerned about the proper operating of the system. And if we create unrealistic requirements and people begin to lose confidence in the system because those who have to administer it cannot explain to them that, although the allowance of this discretion is there, it wouldn't be wise to exercise it, they will begin to say, well, you're not doing your job. Then they will come back to the Legislature angry again and we'll jump the prosecutor. But with the job that they have to do and needing evidence from credible witnesses makes some things almost impossible to prosecute but we're not taking that into consideration here. And you ought to look at the four offenses...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...where there is no statute of limitations and see what the policy is on statutes of limitations references with reference to crimes and why that policy might be in place.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Langford, there are no other lights on, would you care to close?

SENATOR LANGFORD: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. This issue, I believe, has been discussed extensively. Five years is not an unreasonable time, not when other states have as much as 10 years. I am going to read just a few lines from a letter that I believe probably was sent to every office. But it says what I feel about this issue. Just reading parts of it. "My purpose is to urge you, even plead with you, to bring LB 211 to the floor and pass it. I would also hope you would consider a grandfather clause for complaints already recorded." Now, in that, of course, I have no intention of doing. But, in bringing this bill, I brought what I thought was a very moderate proposition to the body to help families with young children who have had them abused. And in this letter it was beyond the statute of limitations. The child is in therapy, blurred vision, disorientation, muscle impairment and this is a seven-year-old. So, ladies and gentlemen, I think Senator Kristensen has given you a very good scenario of a prosecutor and I do hope you will consider the good this bill can do to protect other young children from people who have committed the