

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And this man was let loose, not because of the district court, which refused another hearing, not because the prosecutor, who was supposed to be interested in truth rather than merely conviction, but because the highest court in the state that was not impacted by whatever may have been existing in the way of public outrage in Omaha where the murder was committed, looked at the facts, considered the new evidence and changes what had occurred, and told the state, if you think you can get him with this new evidence, you've got the opportunity, try it. And the state knew they couldn't do it, meaning the prosecutor, and there was no other trial. There are other cases. But what I would like us to decide this on is the basis of what is just and fair for the citizens of this state. Because somebody is accused of a felony does not mean that he or she seeks to be...ceases to be a citizen. And because somebody is convicted of a felony does not mean that the person actually committed it. There are innocent people in the jails in this state.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time. Further discussion, Senator Langford.

SENATOR LANGFORD: Mr. President, I'd like to call the question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. I believe that won't be necessary, only Senator Chambers' light is on. Perhaps you'd like to close, Senator Chambers, or shall we go through the drill? Thank you. This is your closing.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, a very recent case occurred in Douglas County where a young man was accused of having committed a crime that he, in fact, did not commit. And the reason I say he, in fact, did not commit it, he called me, I told him to present what he was offering to me to the public defender who could then proceed with it. A relative of his family gathered these people together again who could confirm where he was. The county attorney saw what was developing and moved to dismiss the charges, but this person had been in jail for a good number of days. Those are the things that can happen. Now they won't happen to a friend of Senator Kristensen, they won't happen to a friend of any of you in here, but they'll happen to my friends because I live in a community