

ability to respond by standing up for their own interests, the fact that they are at risk in their peer groups and the like, all of those situations occur without regard to geography. In other words, I wish that LB 976 was being amended into Senator Johnson's language because then I can far more easily vote not for LB 976 and continue to vote for that which I think is the rational distinction, which is the age of the victim, and in this situation, the Johnson amendment. One of the difficulties is that you are saying that as a matter of law if we put the Johnson amendment into the 976 that you are going to have these little circles on the map, if you will, these little thousand yard circles, or whatever, around a wide variety of locations, schools, playgrounds, video arcades, and these areas will have a special protected quality with a higher standard of penalty than all others. I don't understand the rationale for that.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: I do understand the rationale for the Johnson amendment. I guess if I had my druthers, I guess I will vote for the Johnson amendment and then maybe strike the provisions of 976 or support the striking of those. But what is critical to remember here is not that we protect spaces but that we protect people. That we protect in this case the defenseless with a greater standard than we protect those who we deem to be able to weigh and measure their own interests, like an adult, and that we think taking advantage of the young is more pernicious than simply prevailing upon the predilections of an adult who has already formed their opinion. In that sense, I intend to support the Johnson amendment, but it, because of its merit, highlights the difficulty in 976, and that is that we don't protect geography, we don't protect spaces.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: We protect people. That is why the Johnson amendment is right and 976 really isn't very good policy.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The Chair is pleased to take a moment to recognize some students at UN-L under our south balcony from England. From Chester, we have Alison Paul; from St. Albans, we have Alison Sharp; and from London, we have Steve Lumsden. Would you people please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We are delighted to have you with us this afternoon. Mr. Clerk, you have a motion on the desk.