

are going to do is send a simple message that any type of cattle stealing is going to be a felony. They can choose whether they want a Class IV or Class III.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Because you are on my time, these punishments can be set within a range, when time comes to sentencing, by the judge. The prosecutor makes a determination. I think we have to reach the point where legislators have an obligation to instruct these special interest groups that this is not the way lawmaking will be done in Nebraska, that within the range of the penalties available right now, you can get enough punishment to accomplish your goal. If you make the penalty too heavy, you are not going to have a prosecution under that statute anyway. So the only thing that is happening is a perversion of the system of lawmaking here, and as a matter of fact, you will have people contemplating whether or not it would make more sense to steal something of greater value. So before these cattlemen come running down here saying increase the penalties for the lesser offense, they had better stop and realize that they may be encouraging people to run off with their cows. Somebody called me on my phone and said we need a little help from Wyatt Earp on this issue because it falls into that area. But here is what I would say, cattle theft, cattle rustling are American traditions. Now I know Senator Bernard-Stevens is not trying to undermine Americana and American history in that which has made this country great, but that is what he might run the risk of doing. He can make it so difficult to steal any kind of cattle, the calf, that a person may just go out of the business altogether. So let's leave the law the way it is, but if it is going to be changed, it should be changed in a bill dealing only with that. Now you all have heard from Shakespeare the course of true love never runs smooth. The course of true aggravation never runs smooth either. Do you know who aggravates me on this floor more than anybody else? That woman standing across the aisle from me in a blue suit going in her purse. And what aggravates me this morning is that she and I are on the same side of an issue. I can understand and I can cope with it when Senator Pirsch is hurling missiles of various kind at my head, disagreeing as strongly as she can. But when something happens and she sees the truth in the way that I see the truth, which is the truth as the truth when I see it, I begin to wonder. Has Senator Pirsch undergone a conversion or have I lost my way? Her bill should not be called aggregation, it should be called aggravation. But this morning,...