

indicated that this creature had had a calf or calves before, but because the punishment was so harsh in comparison to the offense, the jury determined that this creature was, indeed, a heifer. What Senator Bernard-Stevens and these others are doing is trying to carve out of the law or put into the law a set of circumstances that causes people to pretend. We have to pretend that the law is not what we have declared it to be. We have declared that offenses, when it comes to theft, are what they are because of the value, and now we are cutting out this one little area. I know that Senator Schrock, Senator Dierks, and others who are intimately acquainted with agriculture may have a strong desire to see that in which they have an interest accorded a special type of protection, which we all might want, but when we come to this Legislature, our job, when we are enacting laws, is to try to become somewhat detached and not look only at how it affects us personally, how it affects people that we know personally, and consider that the law is an umbrella that is to cover all of society and accord either the same protection to everybody or provide the same punishment for everybody whose conduct brings them under that umbrella. What we are doing now is wrong. It is wrong because we should not pervert the law, but it also is wrong because, contrary to what Senator Bernard-Stevens said, it is sending a lie out to those people. This is a lying amendment. This is a lying bill because it is not going to affect at all the amount of cattle stealing that occurs. It is a lie because it is not going to make prosecutors do that which they have determined not to do. I wish somebody other than Senator Bernard-Stevens had brought this. I am not going to say I don't respect him. We are not going to say that on the floor. But I don't respect what he is doing, and Senator Bernard-Stevens knows better. I have been on that Judiciary Committee, laboring in that brier patch for 21 years, and we have had to fight time after time...

SENATOR WARNER: One minute, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...after time against this kind of legislation. So if I were to stand here and act like it doesn't irritate me, I would be living the kind of lie that I say this amendment is telling, and it is so important we have to stand up and protect the system and say this is not going to be done, and I hope that enough of you will view it seriously enough to prevent the adoption of this amendment. Then we will readvance the bill, return it, and put on the more sensible amendment that will make Senator Bernard-Stevens feel better. He is crying