

SENATOR MATZKE: But that probably is an essential part of the bill, as far as Senator Chambers is concerned, and I don't object to that being in the disclosure statement because I think the employer should address that problem, as Senator Chambers has said. My objection is that I don't want some bureaucrat imposing fines on businessmen, who are trying, at least, to do what is right under this statute. The mere passage of this statute is going to probably go a long way toward curing the problem without the criminal or the fine provisions.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I agree with you, it probably will, but I notice that Iowa does have some fines, and we have been told that this bill seems to be working well in Iowa, at least. So I just...I just was bringing that as another way to approach this. I hate to see the fines taken out. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: I appreciate Senator Chambers' seriousness about this matter. It is a problem that needs to be addressed. I am sure that there is a need in this area. I think that need and that problem will be addressed by his bill without the civil and criminal penalty provision because it is still enforceable. I agree with him that it is absolutely inexcusable if there is any case of discrimination. It is absolutely inexcusable to have housing provided as depicted in the World-Herald news stories that were distributed a couple of days ago. I don't debate him or his motivation in this matter. I think that the bill would go a long way toward alleviating the problem without subjecting employers to either civil penalties or criminal penalties. Now directly addressing his amendment to my amendment, he wants to reinstate Section 1, or paragraph (1) of Section 5. That includes both the criminal penalty and civil penalties of up to \$1,000. Again, the statute does not say who is going to impose the civil penalty. Is that going to be a court or is that going to be a bureaucrat? And that's my primary objection to this entire section, that we don't want to abandon our American system of having to prove somebody guilty before we penalize and fine them. I would urge that Senator Chambers amendment to my amendment be rejected.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Jensen and Chambers.