

a lower offense, the cities would also have to follow, it works both ways.

SENATOR LINDSAY: You're right.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: The state would, basically, dictate who gets jury trials and who doesn't.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Right.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: I will yield you back the rest of the time that Senator Hill yielded to you, I guess.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thirty seconds.

SENATOR LINDSAY: I think I am going to yield twenty seconds of that back to the Chair, Mr. Speaker. I think I have used ten seconds in yielding it back.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Then I think we will meditate the other twenty seconds, so...or better yet, we will just proceed with the next speaking order, and we will go to Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I take a different view from that expressed by Senator Lindsay. I think it is a matter of what is fair and equitable. I believe any time a person runs the risk of being imprisoned, being incarcerated, denied his or her freedom by being locked up in jail, whether it is done by the city or the state, that person is entitled to a jury trial. Loss of liberty is a very serious matter, and some people never think about it or consider it until it confronts them, but the public is not aware of what is being discussed here today, so it is necessary that some members on the floor of the Legislature assume the responsibility of trying to protect the rights of people from unfair and arbitrary laws and practices. Some people, and I don't know if Senator Kristensen was taking that position from his line of questioning, some people are more concerned about convenience to the city prosecutor's office than they are about the rights of the people. If Omaha and other cities want to say we can cut a corner here and shave off an edge there and deprive people of a basic right, which they think goes along with living in America, and it is done in order to save money and give the prosecutor a