

Now let's just review some of the things you have accomplished at this point. You've all learned that there is a major distinction between criminal laws and the rest of the laws we passed in here, the very strict interpretation, the close necessity, the imperative of having very accurate and carefully defined things. That's a concept for years in here I've seen has not been understood and it is understood, I think, this year. You've learned more about the sexual assault laws, more about the area of rape, abortion, all these things in one package than has ever been known by any members of this Legislature before. Drug laws, I think, for the first time we have the deepest understanding of just how broad these laws are, how much they cover, what some of the ramifications are, more certainly than was known by the Legislature in previous years. The arguments made were, we don't fully understand it. There is no way everybody in this body is ever going to fully understand all the implications of any law we pass. The reason is because as time passes, conditions change and cases are brought to the court and it's when those specific conditions arise that it's more accurately refined and you have a fuller understanding. You have that with any law you pass, but look how far you've come. You are within the last week. We could have actually finished the code this week. That's what was programmed and I think we would have made it had we not spent most of the time worried about whether we're going to kill or bracket it. You're ready for the last week of the code, the last week and then you can go back and make any other changes, but you're right on the finish line after six years, right at the finish line the last ten yards and you're saying, this is difficult let's quit. That's irresponsible. Senator Venditte said he was new and he is and he said, 25% of the body is new with him. That doesn't mean they can't read that code and all the information. Sure, you're not going to have the absolute perfect understanding of a Melvin Belli on the code but you're going to have a broad understanding of the general concepts. It's under these circumstances that you should be able to make a fairly intelligent decision as to which direction you want to go. Now all of the concerns Senator Venditte has occurred over this area of prostitution if you remember. I heard over the radio Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Mayor Cunningham say how he was going to keep chasing prostitutes and the public safety director said it's irresponsible for the Legislature to do something. I don't know who contacted them and told them whatever they told them, but whoever did hadn't read the code, hadn't read the amendment, didn't understand what they were talking about. You see the code existing law has no provisions to prevent prostitution and what we did with that amendment was basically implement at least society's disapproval of prostitution. That is what we were doing. We didn't stop Mayor Cunningham from chasing girls at all down the street. He can still do that, under his local ordinances. That's the way they've been doing it and I'm sure the way politicians for the next 4,000 years as they have for the past 4,000 get elected and run for offices, chasing prostitutes. My point is, you have to have an understanding of what we are doing with this code before you openly, blatantly condemn it. We've come a long ways. We're about 70 to 80% of the way through the code. We're right at the finish line. At least work our way through before you make that final decision as to whether you want to kill it or save it.

SENATOR MARVEL: Senator Fowler, then the next two are Schmit and Cullan.