

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, because I only read the first paragraph, I am going to start reading this article again. And it, as I stated, it's from the March 2nd, World-Herald, a page 1 story, and this is what it says: "Most murderers in Nebraska have better odds of getting out of prison than does a young man who was sentenced Friday to life imprisonment for a crack cocaine conviction. Clarence Robinson, 23, of Bakersfield, California, was sentenced in Omaha to life in federal prison from which there is no parole. Barring a successful appeal, he will die in federal custody. Robinsons' crime was conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in Omaha. The penalty was enhanced under federal guidelines to a mandatory life sentence because Robinson had two prior drug convictions. In those cases, Robinson was convicted of possessing or selling small amounts of crack as a teenager in Bakersfield. 'I have before me a 23-year-old young man who is facing a mandatory life sentence,' U.S. District Judge Lyle Strom said. 'And we have people in Nebraska every month being convicted of first-degree and second-degree murder whose sentences are going to be substantially less than what I have to impose on this defendant.' The judge said life sentences in first- and second-degree murder cases in Nebraska have averaged 15 years of time served. Strom has been an outspoken critic of federal sentencing guidelines for crack cocaine. Strom objects that penalties for crack cases are stiffer than for powder cocaine. The judge said he tried without success to find a way to avoid sentencing Robinson to life." And that's as much of that article that I will read, because it bears out the point that I'm trying to make. Built into the American system of justice is racism. It is recognized. It is acknowledged, and it is having the desired impact. It is giving these unconscionably long sentence to young black men, who are perceived to be a threat to white people in this society. One time there was a comic book put out many years ago, and the story line was based on the old Frankenstein idea, but instead of having a being constructed from human body parts, this was a robot, and the robot had been constructed with a computer-like brain which could take information, process it, and generate what would be very close to human thought. So people became afraid of this creature when it stopped merely carrying out commands as they were given and began to deviate from what it was instructed to do and would do other things, and it would learn by watching human beings. So it had watched how people