

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes, it could. Of course, what we attempt to do is give judges latitude which we have done in the past and this would still give them the latitude. I don't think you are ever going to legislate into law something that says, judge, you treat them all alike, because as Senator Chambers pointed out, they may have people they like better and want to let them off easier and I don't think you can legislate that. Probably the only way you could do that was set a specific amount, five years, period, and then hope they give them enough in the institution to make them pay for the penalty. Senator Chambers has a point, of course, and so does Senator DeCamp in saying that you can make this too severe when nothing happens but the purpose, as you pointed out, was exactly that, that when and if we get a pusher, then the judge has the authority behind him to sock it to him.

SENATOR SCHMIT: In your work, Senator Nichol, I am sure you have visited with law enforcement. Do you feel that we are making any headway in the area of trying to stop the traffic in drugs or are we just nibbling at the fringes after more than ten years of serious effort?

SENATOR NICHOL: I would say it is frustrating at times and I think that the law enforcement officers feel that they are not making as much progress as they would like to make.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Does law enforcement support this proposal or does it merely have the support of the Bar Association and the judiciary?

SENATOR NICHOL: I would hate to speak for all law enforcement officers but I get the feeling that, yes, they would like to have this.

SENATOR SCHMIT: They feel that it would be an improvement over the present law?

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you very much.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: (Mike off) the Legislature, I don't have a major objection with Senator Wesely wishing to refer or rerefer this bill to committee but I thought there were a few points that should be made relative to the provisions that are included in the amended form which you now have