

January 8, 1982

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you have somebody doing life and they assault an officer or another inmate, adding anything to their sentence doesn't mean a whole heck of a lot. So I would like to discuss with you perhaps together putting an amendment on that where someone is doing a long term we might consider a sentence of solitary confinement in order to remove them from the rest of prison population, protect the rest of the inmates who are doing their time and behaving and trying to be rehabilitated and at the same time lessen the possibility of officers repeatedly being assaulted by the same criminals because as we all know last June the stabbings that took place some of those men that did the stabbings that wasn't their first attempt to assault an officer. It was a repeated thing. So giving them additional time did not deter them at all. I think we need to go a little bit farther and I hope that you and I could sit down and work out something else to address that problem. I would like to ask all the other Senators to vote to advance Senator Pirsch's bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Pirsch, do you wish to close on the bill? On your amendment, I'm sorry. Do you want to speak before she...? Okay, the Chair recognizes Senator Chambers to....

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This amendment is found for everybody who is looking for it on page 89. It starts at page 89 on the Journal and runs through the top of page 91. Because the amendment is so extensive and there are so many things in it that I personally am opposed to and I know my opposition is not going to sway anybody, but I have got to have it in the record, I would not support this amendment at all. The enhancement of penalties seems to be the panacea that people in this body think will solve all the problems that exist but that is not going to accomplish a single thing. If the current assault laws are not going to be resorted to by the county attorney, there must be a reason for it. What you are going to have to say is that the county attorney favors assaults in these institutions, therefore, he will not bring a prosecution, so no matter how you draft a bill he is still not going to bring it. But there might be a deeper underlying problem in institutions that a lot of neophytes are totally unaware of and don't care about. Part of that has to do with the undercurrent, let's say the underlying means of controlling these institutions. There are certain people who are allowed to commit assault after assault, even killings in prison, because they are the enforcers for the institution. Some of them are allowed to enter the cells of other inmates and commit homosexual assaults because they are part of the control mechanism in

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