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LB 465

SENATOR CHAMBERS: There should not be an enhancement of punishment without studying the entire aspect of the system that you are dealing with. And if I get another opportunity to speak on this, I have more to say.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Higgins and then Senator Beutler.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. Speaker and Senators, I hope you just enjoyed Senator Chambers' speech about the criminal acts that go on in the Penitentiary and how we do nothing to correct it. This is my second session here. My first session last year, I introduced a bill that would punish any correctional officer who committed a homosexual act upon an inmate. Well I asked Senator Chambers' advice on this. I wanted to make it 10 years for a correctional officer who would sexually assault an inmate. Well, I said 5 years for any inmate who sexually assaults another inmate, and Senator Chambers said, that won't fly, Senator Higgins, you make it 4 years for a correctional officer and 2 years for an inmate. So I did, and my bill went before the Judiciary Committee, before Senator Chambers' committee which he is Vice Chairman of. Who do you think made the motion to kill the bill to straighten things out in the prison? Senator Chambers. Now he may come back and say, well, it was poorly drawn. I'll admit the legislative aide that drew it didn't last that long with me. But Senator Chambers has a degree in law. If he was as sincere as he talks, he would have come to me and said, Senator Higgins, you have got a brilliant idea, you have got a good idea, this is the beginning to solve the problem in the prisons, can I help you? Can I amend your bill so that it will fly so it will be legally correct? No, he made the motion to kill it. So this previous speech of his, I just want you to keep this in mind. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler and then Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, a couple of questions of Senator Pirsch, if I may.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Pirsch, do you yield?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And excuse me if I wasn't paying enough attention at the beginning of your remarks, but as I understand it that portion of the bill which is the amendment that appears in the Journal which is five-sixths of the bill, or most of the bill, that is your amendment? That is not a