

Police Department brought down a sample of actual crack, and it is kind of a yellowy substance...a yellowy substance that can...the way they sell it is that they chop it up, slice it up, and then it is sold in small quantities. The name of crack came...the reason why this drug is called "crack" is that when an individual smokes the substance, it makes kind of a cracking, snapping noise, and that is the reason why they called it "crack". A few other facts here just to give you kind of a perspective of what we are talking about with only one ounce. The one ounce or 28.3 grams, sells for an amount of approximately \$2,830, that is the street value, of this one ounce of cocaine. Now what that translates into is 1,120 lines of cocaine which is the approximate high that is used, one line of cocaine. A gram of cocaine will break down into approximately 40 lines and, from a gram of cocaine, 40 individuals can snort one line of cocaine, so you are talking about 1,120 highs. Now what this bill is aimed at, this bill does not provide a mandatory minimum sentence for all individuals that are using cocaine or crack. The bill is aimed exclusively at those selling the drugs, and the quantity that is used...the quantity that is used in the sale of these drugs is an amount that is high enough where it will not hit the average everyday user. You are not going to have the average everyday user buying cocaine and crack in the amounts of \$2,800. This is an individual that is clearly selling the drugs, an individual that is involved in the marketing of the drugs, and it is my belief that if we deal...and my belief, as well as law enforcement officials...that if we deal with the problem in a manner that provides for harsh penalties, then these individuals will stop selling the drugs in the State of Nebraska, or at least, hopefully, start to slow down some of the use in the state, and I think that we have all been aware of the problems that we have seen with individuals coming into our state and marketing these particular drugs in our states. The problems that we faced in the City of Omaha with the Bloods and the Crips is an example of a group coming in, seeing that there is a market in this particular area of the country, and when they have this particular market, they are merchandising their product. Now what is the long-run or what is the long-haul result of the sale of cocaine and crack? Well, I tried to show you some statistics that show that it is on a substantial increase, and I think we all can agree that there is no...the problem in this state is not as severe as it is in Los Angeles or Washington, D.C. For example, in Washington, D.C., there has been an incredible amount of murders and drug-related killings