

as a result of the sale of cocaine and crack. It is an incredibly lucrative business. People make millions of dollars off the sale of these drugs, and as a result of the huge amount of money that is made, I think that you are going to have fights over the territories in the individuals being able to sell these particular drugs. Now, in the City of New York, it is literally a killing a night dealing with drug-related killings dealing with cocaine and crack, and it has become, instead of the cherry capital, it has become the murder capital of the United States. The problem has gotten so bad that they finally decided to put curfews on children under the age of 13, from 11:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., to try to reduce the amount of drug-related killings that have taken place because most of them deal with youths. Washington, D.C., last year, had 372 drug-related killings, and they have already had 107 this year alone. It is interesting because I have a couple of brothers who live in Washington, D.C., and they said it is basically a nightly occurrence. Last week, when I talked to them, they had five drug-related killings and then they show them on the television set with the blood splattered on the street. It is an everyday occurrence, and actually it has kind of desensitized some of the people. I would urge the advancement and passage of LB 592. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Do you have an amendment, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, I do. Senator Ashford would move to amend the bill. Senator Would you like me to read it or is that necessary?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Yeah, would you please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Read Ashford amendment found on page 1223 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President. This amendment is introduced very seriously as a part of this legislation. If we were watching...you were watching television yesterday morning, there were several programs, national news programs, dealing with the issue of the sale of drugs and the relationship of the sale of drugs in the United States and the use of semiautomatic weapons as the weapon of choice by drug dealers in this country. It was interesting that when we had our hearing a couple of