

it takes months and months to investigate before you can make an arrest, and all the dumbbells have to do is go up to the door and say I want to buy some dope. They will sell it to anybody, and how much investigating does it take to do that? They don't ask you for identification. They don't ask you for a driver's license or anything else, and they could break it if they wanted to, but my belief is that the intent is to keep our community, meaning the black community, and the poor white community that fringes it in a narcotized state. If you keep drugs in that community, you keep it on its knees. You keep it incapacitated, and you can talk all you want to about education and everything else, but when children can see drug deals going down on the street and the police say they can't find it. People complain in their communities about the drug houses and the police cannot make an arrest. This is a lot of hogwash, and if I used a certain kind of language, and there were not people present here for whom I have a great amount of respect, I would tell you in street talk exactly what it is. This is no reference to Senator Abboud who has brought the bill. He has been led to believe that if you say we are going to put a harsh punishment, that is going to stop the drug traffic, you are not going to touch it. I would like to ask Senator Abboud a question or two. Senator Abboud, based on the information that you were given by the law enforcement people in Omaha and Douglas County, how many arrests during the last year were made of people with seven or more ounces of cocaine?

SENATOR ABOUD: Senator Chambers, I don't have that information with me at this time of...seven or more ounces.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How many arrests altogether of those who had cocaine, because I think you were giving some statistics?

SENATOR ABOUD: Right, I had the...well, the total amount of drug arrests last year were 1,542.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that would include ritalin, quaaludes?

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Marijuana, every kind of drug that would be in violation of the law, correct in that figure?

SENATOR ABOUD: In this figure, yes. I can probably get you a breakdown on the amount of arrests based on cocaine and crack.