

March 20, 1989

LB 592
LR 57

have been charged under Section 5(b) dealing with crack for the mandatory three year. There was one arrest for 28 grams of crack and one arrest for 14 grams, and then there were four other arrests, one for...that would have been effected by Section 5(a) of the bill, and there was one arrest for 36 grams of crack, one arrest for 30 grams of crack, one arrest for 84 grams of crack and one arrest for 30 grams of crack, an additional one. And at this time there were no arrests under the cocaine section between January 1 and March 19 of 1989 that would have fit under the category of 4(a) or 4(b). So that's...and in a total at this time, there has been over 11.3 pounds of cocaine crack seized through March 19 of this year in comparison to a total of last year's cocaine crack for the entire year of 31 pounds, so I think that shows there has been a substantial increase in the amount of cocaine and crack that has come into the state in comparison even to 1987 where there was only confiscation and arrests of 8.3 pounds. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, do you have something?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to indefinitely postpone LB 592. Senator Abboud would have the option to lay the bill over, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers, just a second, please. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 57. (See page 1227 of the Legislative Journal.) Senator Chambers. Senator Abboud, did you want to take it up or not?

SENATOR ABOUD: Yes, I did. Yes.

PRESIDENT: Pardon me? Yes? All right. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this bill is one of those kind that seems to do something that it really does not and to oppose it would seem to place one in a position of being soft on drug dealers, but the reality is we have too many laws that appear to do something which, in fact, they do not do and with some law enforcement agencies that support these laws, when they have succeeded in getting a law on the books, they sit back and they boast about that when they talk to various community groups. If one decides to run for a public office, he or she will say, I got tough legislation