

they are doing more damage to this country than anything I can think of. But I just don't see where this bill is going to do anything, so that's really where I stand and I'll give the rest of my time to Senator Schmit, if he would like it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, you have almost nine minutes counting your five minutes time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, thank you, Mr. President, I was afraid I wouldn't get to speak. It's been 16 years ago since we passed in this Legislature a series of bills that Senator Chambers and Senator Warner and Senator Goodrich and myself all supported, all of us thought would do something to stop the abuse of drugs. I believe we're the only ones who are here today who were here then. I would have to confess at this time that the drug situation is worse today in Nebraska than it was then. I listened for eight years while President Reagan and Mrs. Reagan proposed to lead a war on drugs. I've listened now to the fact that President Bush intends to hire Mr. Bennett as his drug czar, and any time that any individual in this Legislature or out of it decides they want to make a kind of a splash, as Senator Landis has said, you can talk about getting tough on the drugs, on the drug users and the abusers. Ladies and gentlemen, I do not believe that the abuse of drugs can exist in any area where there is the dedication and the commitment and the resources to stamp them out. I do not believe it can happen. I do believe this. Senator Chambers is correct. You can up the penalty, you can make it a felony to smoke a cigar if you want to. You're not going to stop that sort of thing. You've got to stop it at the source. And they can talk about running around with an ounce of coke or seven ounces or whatever it is, so many grams, I doubt that the individuals who are on the streets are cognizant of how much they are carrying at the time. I well recall on this floor 16 years ago, 14 years ago, 12 years ago we said we do not seek to punish the occasional user, the teenager who trades a joint back and forth, as much opposed to that as we are. What we're trying to do is to stamp out the wholesale widespread distribution by which billions of dollars are made by individuals who are never on the street, who will never be seen in a police station, who will never do one day, one hour in custody because they have the money to buy the support they need to stay out of jail. And it goes on, ladies and gentlemen, in this state, in this city. Senator Chambers knows whereof he speaks. We have a principal handicap in this body. We seem to dig in and reenforce our convictions against those who have a