

problem confronting the country because it reaches everywhere, all levels of society. However, there are some groups, as with every other problem, who are hurt by it more than others. I put the motion to bracket, as I said, to make sure that the question wouldn't be called before some had the chance to speak, but also that I'm serious about the motion to bracket. I would like the bill not to pass at all. The motion is bracket it until April 25th. The date is not that important to me. I would like, since there has been some discussion, for there to be the passage of some days to see if the Legislature still feels that this is a bill that ought to be passed. If it is bracketed, I would not attempt to amend it anyway, as I haven't attempted to amend it today, I have just tried to stop it. I have gotten into the record all of the things at this point that I think I need to have there. I think it's important that a record be made. This is the first serious relatively extended discussion we have had of the drug problem this year as a Legislature and I think we do have a responsibility to show some leadership. If the only leadership we can show is to create two new categories of felony and set some mandatory minimums which, by the way, are very modest, then we really haven't done anything. Not only in Nebraska but in the country as a whole there is no war against drugs. If there ever was a war, it has been completely irretrievably lost. There is a defect in the public character of this country that is going to allow drugs to continue to flourish no matter what is done. But for those who are victimized by this problem because they're in a location where they cannot get away from it, opportunity in the form of choices ought to be made available. If there is such a thing as giving a rope ladder to somebody who is in a pit and wants to get out of it, the Legislature should be in the business of fashioning that ladder. This bill does not do that. I have no love for drug pushers or dealers, suppliers that I see right now in Nebraska as other places. The big fish have not been touched. They are not going to be touched. If they have arrested only six people between January and March, with a sufficient amount of drugs in their possession to have been affected by this bill, that, in itself, shows you that enforcement is not occurring. If, on the other hand, they're going to tell you there are only six people in Omaha who are dealing at this level, then Omaha, I will tell you, has no drug problem. If the biggest pushers and dealers are those who have the amounts of drugs that Senator Abboud mentioned and not all six of them had the top amount that he mentioned, Omaha is one of the lucky cities that does not have a drug problem. If there have not been more arrests of