

we advance this bill and claim, look at us, look at us, we solved the drug problem. If we do that, then we are wrong. But if we sit here today and don't pass a bill like this which, one, sends maybe a small message that we're going to get tougher on drugs; two, indeed makes it very clear what this body plans to do with drug pushers, I think if we fail to advance this bill that we send an even worse message. If we send the message that we can't solve the problem so we're not going to deal with it, I think you're making...you know, you have a choice, you have a choice. I think we're making a grave mistake if we sit here today and fail to advance this bill and send the message that that problem is so big we're not even going to touch it. I urge you to advance the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Haberman, followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, I have sat here and listened to the debate. You know, it's kind of amusing, really, this morning we spent time on guns. We spent a lot of time on guns. We have to ban those guns that shoot so many bullets per hour or per minute because they kill people. We just have to do something about those guns. It was heated debate, it was emotional debate and people were serious to do something about those guns. We have to take care of the gun problem because they kill people. So here we have before us now a bill that talks about pushers of cocaine and crack. Well, now what does cocaine and crack do? It kills people. It cripples people. It breaks up homes. It does countless of things to people. And what we're attempting to do is to get the pusher or to get the seller. Now I wouldn't doubt that you could go down on the streets of Omaha, like it was said this morning, and buy a gun in seven minutes. You can go down the streets in Omaha and buy crack and cocaine in seven minutes, but you have to buy it from somebody, somebody has to sell it. Now you really can't say we should crucify or go after the people that use it because they need medical help. They're sick. But you sure as hell can go after the person who sells it. He's making a profit. He's supplying it. He's a dealer. So what does this bill do? It makes a heavier sentence. Now if you will look at the bill right now, they serve 18 months with parole and good time. That's what somebody serves that is convicted for dealing in cocaine and crack, 18 months. Now is that going to deter anybody from standing on the streets of Omaha and selling this and making a profit? And they say, well, for the money I'm making I only have to spend 18 months in jail, I'm making a lot