

need today to effectively combat drug pushers, what would be your response?

SENATOR MOORE: Within limits or on one of your requests?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Within limits. Okay, so he was going to take half of the drug pushers off the street, well, then I would suggest, given the law of supply and demand, that means the price of drugs will probably go up some because you will have half of them off the streets but that will still leave a lucrative market for those who remain. Now, Senator Abboud is insistent upon toughening the penalties and he is an attorney and he understands what happens when you get a penalty tougher than what the courts would like to enforce, there is such a thing as a plea bargaining going on. And so the plea bargaining process takes place and nothing really happens anyway. Unless, ladies and gentlemen, you are willing to put your money on the line, you just as well whistle Dixie and go on back to the farm. You're not going to do it. We're talking about whether they're going to buy the patrol a used helicopter. You know, I've had a little experience with that equipment. It boggles my mind that in 20 years now we have bought two helicopters for the highway patrol, two helicopters. Ten years ago we bought the second one. We're thinking now about overhauling that one because it's got probably 3,000 hours on it. But in the entire State of Nebraska we think that we can justify one helicopter for the highway patrol. We probably can justify overtime for them. We will just put all the drug pushers on hold overnight, come back in the morning. We'll work an eight to five shift. You know, sometimes you have to understand the public out there is more sophisticated than we are and sometimes they understand that we pass a bill just for public consumption and that is what you're doing here. This comes as close to fitting my criteria of a popular bill as any we are going to have this session. Helps no one, hurts no one, does nothing, most important it costs nothing. It costs nothing. So you can go back and say, we doubled or tripled the penalty for drug pushers. Ladies and gentlemen, if it would deter it, I would stand for it, but it won't. You have got to get the big pusher and get rid of that individual. When I drive to work in the morning I listen to the arrest record on drug pushers. Arrested four people for pushing drugs last night; one had an ounce of cocaine; some had a couple of ounces of marijuana; some were in a house of...a crack house.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.