

SENATOR SCHMIT: You know, Senator Abboud said there would have been six individuals that would have been prosecuted under this law between now and the 1st of January. I would guarantee that Senator Chambers can go down in his area and probably in many other areas of Omaha and point out that many in a single night, point out that many. I know a 45-year-old mother who told me, I find it impossible to believe that I can walk down the street and spot a drug pusher by the...one after another after another, as a 45-year-old housewife, and the official law enforcement people of this city cannot spot them and if and when they do, they refuse to do anything about it. Ladies and gentlemen, that's where your problem is. We have some people in law enforcement who are trying to do a good job. Let's give them the tools to do the job and then let's come back and find out if the penalties need to be more strict. The penalty cannot be too strict...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...for those major pushers, ladies and gentlemen, but you're not going to stop it by penalizing the 16-year-old kids on the street who have no other recourse other than to look at it as a sort of a pastime.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lamb. Senator Lamb, please. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, Senator Schmit tried to draw some sort of allusion to pickpockets and, to me, there is no comparison between a pickpocket and somebody that's going to sell crack and cocaine and this is too serious of an issue to make lightly of it. And then it was referred would I vote to build a new penitentiary? And, under the circumstances that they be built not to the convenience of the people who are going to be in there, yes. But, no, we want to build a new pen in Omaha so that the people that are put in the pen will be able to have visitors, so they're close to home, so they can have visitors. That's why we ought to build this new penitentiary that we did in Omaha. Sure, I will vote to build a new penitentiary, Senator Schmit, but let's put it out in the middle of the "toolies", clear out in the middle of the sandhills or out in the middle of nowhere where they normally have a penitentiary so when they hear the door clang they know they're going to be there for a while. You