

young people in this state to realize that the use of cocaine and crack can cause incredible and dangerous consequences. It has to be a part of a package. But it comes to a point where you see individuals coming into this state, gangs from Los Angeles, and they say Omaha is a good market, it's an easy market, we can make some money here. If they couldn't make money in Omaha, they wouldn't be coming in here. And, if they weren't currently making money in Omaha, they wouldn't be staying here. This is business, pure and simple. There are articles that talk about the different gangs from Los Angeles and how they urge, through violence, to their membership not to use this stuff. They're in it for the money. The country of Columbia is in it for the money. The individuals that are selling this drug, that are making the drug are in it for the money, pure and simple. We're not talking about some...we're talking about maybe some people that are using the drugs as being these poor, indigent people that are having a tough time as it is and they turn to coke and crack as a way to escape reality, that exists. But I'd say to the people that are making money, that are making millions of dollars from other people's misery, that they should have to pay the price. It's unfortunate, in our judicial system, that we don't have judges that say as a result of this conviction we're going to put you away for five years. But what happens instead is they say, we're going to sentence you to 10 years with no minimum, and that results, as it did two weeks ago, in a person that's convicted, sentenced to 10 years in prison, being eligible for parole in seven months. Now, is that a good message to send to dealers coming into this state, that you go ahead and you get yourself a good attorney, and you work out an agreement, or you fight the charge? And then even after you spend all that money, which is just the cost of doing business, you're going to have to spend a little bit of time, but it's not going to be much. Mandatory minimums have worked with drunk driving. They send a clear message. And I think maybe that's part of the problem with some of our laws today is that people don't view it as a severe and sure punishment. This is a severe and sure punishment. If you're selling coke and crack in this state, and it's over this amount in your possession, then you're going to spend some time in prison, if you're convicted.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR ABBOD: And I guess that's what prisons are all about. But, you know, I look to Washington, D.C. and see people not