

understand what will happen to the prison population over time, if we change the sentencing schedules and the penalties for crimes, so that we can see how much we're going to overload the system by different kinds of changes like this, given the historical pattern of crimes and sentencing, and to see how much cost it will, or, if there's going to be an overcrowding situation, what kind of criminals would be available for early release. You see, when you put in a maximum/minimum, like this, a minimum that can't be assuaged, these people will have to stay in prison, and if you're hit with an overcrowding circumstance other people, potentially perhaps more violent people, will have to come out to meet constitutional standards, if you've written this kind of a bill. Well, we've got that computer program in the works, not available now, hopefully, by next year. That computer program will tell us, if you change the sentences and judges change their practices, this is what is going to happen to your beds, this is going to happen to your occupancy ratios, this is what is going to happen to the public costs. We don't have that, we're about a year away. Don't worry, we're not going to stop this bill, we're not going to wait a year to find out, I know that. I know that we're sitting here as...and serving as a political function. I don't mean that to sound too negative. A political function really does kind of test the winds, listen to constituents and respond to their frustrations. And there is no doubt that our constituencies are frustrated about drugs. It's right that their frustration be translated into action. It's unfortunate that that frustration is not translated into much more meaningful action or much more thoughtful action than what we're going to do today. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Landis was right on target again. And I would add to that just a tiny bit. When you sew the wind sometimes you reap the whirlwind. We will have bills in here that will cut down the amount of prenatal care available. We think that by cutting ADC we're punishing people who we think have lived immoral lives and don't meet our standards, so we don't give them anything. We don't give any amount in food stamps, we don't give adequate assistance to obtain decent shelter, none of the things that would help a person in America maintain a minimum level of decent, proper living in a country that supposedly has the highest standard of living in the world. Then when those seeds that we plant begin to produce the bitter fruit, such as what