

everyone will just stop using the drugs and we won't have a drug problem any longer. Well, the handout that I have distributed this afternoon, this is a brand new handout that I had the information but I didn't see it as relevant up to this time, shows that in the City of Los Angeles, which has one of the more severe cocaine problems in the state, they have seen an increase in the amount of gang-related murders and deaths from 150 in 1985 to 257 in 1988. But more significant, I think, more significant is the next statistic which shows the number of arrests for cocaine and crack increased from 7,353 to over 21,903. Let me make it clear, you will have more arrests for cocaine and crack in the future. You will have more arrests. The question is, and this is the basic premise of this bill, that if you arrest the individuals that are the king pins in the drug market, you will have a reduction in the amount of individuals using cocaine and crack. If you take away the distribution of the drug into this area, then you will have a reduction in the amount of use, proportionately. Now, you have seen in Los Angeles that it started out in '85 at about 2,500, the amount of cocaine and crack seized, and it rose to 42,000 pounds and then the law enforcement officials in Los Angeles realized that one of the more significant ways was to go after the drug currency and that's what they changed their mode of operation to, from seizing the drugs to seizing their assets because they realized that they're in it only for the money. Now the only reason this bill is here is because I want to avoid as much as possible those...the woman that Senator Chambers referred to earlier, the pregnant woman, who is a victim.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR ABBOD: She is a victim of the drug problem in our society and that individual is the type of people that we should try to help through this bill. The bill is only aimed at the people that are selling the drugs. It's not aimed at the user, it's aimed at the person that is making money from the sale of drugs. Now there may be some problems with our current system. As I said from day one, this is only one step but the gangs that are coming in, the individuals that are selling the drugs are finding a ready market and if we can, hopefully, nip this problem, at least discourage large drug dealers from coming in and setting up their operations in Nebraska, then I think we'll go and make a positive step towards dealing with this problem. You will have arrests in cocaine and they're going to increase. It's going to be a matter of how much of an increase.