

they can see, is about AIDS and drugs. So I really feel probably we have started on a preliminary program of teaching children what drugs do to them. Also, I find it very insulting to have the police force of any city...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Langford, excuse me. (Gavel.) Proceed.

SENATOR LANGFORD: ...insulted on the floor of the Legislature. True or not true, if it's true, we do something; if it isn't, we do not insult very hard working citizens in our state who try desperately hard to defend us. I am opposed to the bracket bill. I think the time has come for us to understand that we now are on a different thinking in drug punishment. Many, many years in this country we punished only the pusher that we could find, whoever we could find that was in the business of making money from drugs. The law is now that we can punish users, after all they are the customer, they are the one that is making it possible for somebody to become rich on drug pushing. If we punish the user, we help the problem. I think everyone that deals in drugs, whether they use, whether they push, what they do, are committing a crime, therefore, they should be punished. The fact that they must be punished under this bill is the only, the only thing the bill says, really, with an increase in punishment. Please don't bracket the bill, and vote for it with an opportunity. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Pirsch, please.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, this is not the complete solution and we know that. We all agree that red herrings have been drawn across this trail of debate, costs of prison, the highway patrol, unequal application, education needed for our children. All of those do represent ideas that need to be addressed. The forfeiture of drug profits passed several years ago. That certainly wasn't the end all but it was a beginning. We need education. We need better and more law enforcement. We need prosecution and we need courts that respond. In the Judiciary Committee, we had testimony from Jim Joneson who is Chairman of the Drug Policy Board and I would like to share it with you. He would point out that the Drug Policy Board, through its contacts with various criminal justice agencies and citizens and the examination of statistics available to it, found that one of the problems was disparity of sentencing, coupled with a time lapse that occurs