

April 3, 1989

LB 592

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Would you support any legislation that would do away with good time?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay, thank you. In other words though, if we say five years and this is the minimum, at least there is some time that we know that person is going to be punished in jail. If Senator Abboud had introduced an all encompassing bill, education, speaking to all of these various points we heard on the floor today, do you think any one of you would support that bill? In the first place, it would be too costly, and, in the second place, we would all be picking out bits and pieces that we saw were either inefficient or too costly or wouldn't do the job.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired.

SENATOR PIRSCH: We have to do it one step at a time. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Nelson, followed by Senator Hefner.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I had some concerns with this bill in Judiciary Committee of which I am still not sure exactly where I'm going to go. My concern was very much spelled out by Senator Hannibal this morning. He said it right. By making these mandates, what are we going to do? We only have so much room for prisons and so on, are we going to then let out the person, the rapist, and so on and so forth, to start to fill our prisons up? My question has always been and I'm still not sure in my mind when we talk about the quantities, if there is that college student or if there is that person that I am sure is a user, but distributes crack or cocaine, are we taking in consideration that they can be rehabilitated, they can be helped? Prison is not necessarily always the answer. And it would seem to me like that the judges have that discretion. What I tried to find out and what I tried to figure out in my own mind is the quantities. Are we reaching the one that is really definitely coming in here and pedaling cocaine or are we reaching and trying to fill up our prisons with those that can