

another couple of minutes? I will yield the first couple of minutes of my time, or so, to Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. I want to...I want to finish this up by talking about the system and the discretion. Don't get into the trap here of being angry about plea bargains and about county attorneys who don't do their jobs. And, Senator Chambers, I can take issue with you at times because it's real easy to kick at the guy that has...that has the discretion. The job of the prosecutor is to win. If we look in the statute, what we have told him his job is to do is if you feel there is a crime, you go out and you charge it and you prove it. That doesn't mean win at all cost. And the reason it isn't win at all cost is we put laws and we take these little red books and we've got all sorts of laws in here and say, here are the rules you've got to follow but if you can follow those and convict them, fine. What we're doing is tinkering with the rules. If the rules need to be tinkered with, fine, no problem with that, but know what we're doing when we do those things. You're going to allow a little more discretion here. You don't like some of that discretion that gets exercised once in a while. You don't like the fact that cases get dismissed. You don't like the fact that cases get plea bargained down. That makes us angry. And prosecutors can't come out and necessarily try their cases in the papers and the ones that do aren't very good prosecutors. The good prosecutors are the ones that take the case, charge it the best they can and run with it. And if they can't win, they come back to the victims and the police and they say, look, here's the reason we're not going to win a trial and here's what we ought to do. And if all you had to do is have one case a year, you could prepare and you could have your witnesses and you can do the best job in the world, but you don't have one case. We don't have one bill. We had 817 odd bills. Do you think every one of us are prepared for every one of those bills? I know I'm not. The same way with prosecutors and cases, you've only got so many things you can do. So I take...I take affront to the fact that we're going to rip at the prosecutors for not doing their jobs. They've got a difficult job and we give them discretion and we do that for a reason. Know when you vote for this that you're allowing them more discretion. Whether you want to do that or not, that's the reason you hit a red or a green. Thank you, Bernard-Stevens, for your time and I will let...