

impacting on the drug problem at all. So these...this numerous group of addicts will go to jail. The jails are overcrowded. The police can trot out their statistics and say that they're fighting the drug problem. One of the people that they caught was a woman who was eight months pregnant. I'm not in favor of drug use by anybody, but when they caught this woman and arrested her, she went into labor and they had to take her to the hospital. That's the kind of thing that's being done. That's where a lot of the people are coming from who are winding up in the jails and in the prisons. I put in one case that was so unbelievable that a unanimous Nebraska Supreme Court, having its opinion expressed by Chief Justice Hastings, said that the evidence used to convict this Black man was incredible. There was no basis for a conviction. It involved a Black student who was silly enough to go to school at Peru State and he went into this tavern because his brother was being beaten up, he was being held by two White men while a third punched him. And when this man jumped in to help his brother, he was arrested, charged with disturbing the peace, and when this evidence was presented to Judge Finn, Judge Finn found him guilty. And when this went up to the Supreme Court the judges themselves were shocked and reversed it and said they had no problem finding, as a matter of law, that there was no evidence to justify this conviction. They even pointed out how the White woman bartender said that the fight had been going on for 10 or 15 minutes but she never saw a White person throw a punch. That's what the Supreme Court wrote in their opinion. Now, fortunately, this student had some people who would help him file an appeal. There are a lot of other Black people who don't know lawyers or the public defender will tell them to plead guilty to a lesser offense and do the time that they've served or get a lesser sentence and there they are. And the bitterness toward the system festers and grows. It just happens that on occasion one of these atrocious cases will go all the way to the Supreme Court and we can see the type of rulings that judges give. What I'm saying here today is not designed, although it could be for that purpose, to indict the entire judicial system. My point is to show that there are a lot of people winding up in jail who should not be there, first of all because they should not be convicted; that there are other people who can be convicted of an offense, but they should not go to jail. If the police in Omaha felt that the way to fight the problem of drugs is to catch addicts, there are far more addicts in west Omaha than in north Omaha, and there is far more money out there. But they don't set up these operations in west Omaha and arrest these White people. The kind of cases