

for release. So for this Legislature to feel that the only reaction to these acknowledged inequities is to build more prisons to continue perpetuating and encouraging the inequity makes it difficult for me to stand here and try to debate this in a way that will not make me seem irrational. I witnessed the devastation that is done to people, that is done to a community, when we can see by reading the newspapers the types of people who are arrested, the charges brought, the sentences they receive. And then, when we see these people who know that they've been sentenced unfairly go to prison because they don't have the docile attitude that some of the prison officials want them to have, then they get additional write-ups and injustice is added to injustice and people who went there thinking the system is rotten anyway see no value in it whatsoever. And when they come back out of those places that you want to build more of, you have created a worse problem than when they went in. I'm one of those who will receive a lot of calls and requests for help from these people and their families. I talk to various law enforcement persons, the chief executive officers of law enforcement agencies. Talk to the head of the FBI. None of what I'm saying can they deny, none of it. It's written right there in the open and it's being said to us today that the only response by the Legislature is to build more prisons. The legislative report didn't say that that was the only alternative, and I think it is...I think it is cynical to build the prison and then have a study to see whether it was needed and tell me that the study was conceived in sincerity and...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...really is aimed at trying to solve the problem. That will not compute. And once the building commences, it is not going to stop. I know that. The rest of you or most of you, after you vote to build more prisons, can wash your hands of the problems, but they inundate me in my office. And some of the senators have visited out there and when they become known the same thing is going to happen to them because they are desperate people. It is a stressful environment anyway and when you have incompetent people serving as guards who can heap up these petty, vexatious, unfair treatments or mistreatments, then you build a volatile situation. And it plays into the hands of the prison administration to write a lot of people up, put a lot of them in the hole and say the only answer is to build more prisons.