

Yesterday I handed out an article and it dealt with what some Congress persons are trying to do in order to exploit the new fad of fighting drugs, but this senator, if it is a senator, Gramm, Phil Gramm, Republican from Texas, I shouldn't have said Republican, that is going to hurt me, and Newt Gingrich, another "Repelican" are...I bet both of them drink, and alcohol is the most abused drug in this country. But in order to make political hay, they are going to take the drugs that are perceived to be those of the street people and come in with all types of harsh, Draconian proposed legislation. This article that I gave you a copy of yesterday was from page 5 of the Lincoln Journal dated January 22, 1990. It is brief so I can read the whole thing so that it won't seem that I am picking and choosing to make a case. "Senator Phil Gramm, Republican, Texas, is promising to get tough on drug thugs with a series of stiff anticrime proposals that would require most inmates to work and could deprive them of such prison amenities as air conditioning. Gramm, Republican, Texas, and House Minority Whip, Newt Gingrich, Republican, Georgia, are proposing legislation that would declare a five-year National Drug and Crime Emergency Act to deal with the problems of our bleeding nation. Gramm's bill would require mandatory sentences without parole for federal drug and violent crime convictions. It would impose stiff penalties for drug users, allow states, local governments, and businesses to conduct random drug testing, and restricts the courts right to limit prison overcrowding. Under Gramm's proposed state of emergency, prisoners could be housed in temporary space including military bases or in tents, while costs for building new prisons could be cut by eliminating such nonessentials as air conditioning." There are people who raise animals and they know that when it is very hot, it is humane to provide air conditioning. This is not something that should be deemed a privilege. It is a humane requirement that should be placed on government when it has taken the freedom from its citizens for whatever reason. But what I am especially looking at is where he wants to restrict the court's ability to deal with prison overcrowding. When you have periods such as this when politicians will seize on a fad and use it to try to make political hay, there have to be protections built into the Constitution to place beyond the reach of these simple-minded politicians certain rights and decencies that ought to be guaranteed to all citizens, even if they have been convicted of a crime. I could have handed around numbers of articles showing where people have been improperly, unfairly convicted of crimes they did not commit. One man just walked off death row in