

you go out around West Dodge, if you go around some of the high schools, there is more drug activity in those locations than you could find in any other single location in north Omaha. But the police don't know whose children those are, so they're not going to be busting them upside the head, putting them in handcuffs, dragging them to jail and saying what they're doing is gang-related activity, although if you went by the objective evidence of what they're doing, you cannot distinguish one from the other. Every time you turn on television, every time you open the newspaper, we, who are black, can see how our objective representatives of the media portray us. Every time a door is broken in it's a black persons' door. Every time somebody is thrown down on the floor, on the ground with hands being cuffed behind his or her back, it's a black person. Whenever the cops decide to take television people along with them, you'd think they had more ethics, to break into the home of some woman with several small children, they are black people, and a good time is held by all, even, even when it turns out to have been the wrong house, because black people do not have rights in this country that white people feel a necessity of respecting when they're in positions of law enforcement and they get on their hobbyhorse. This kind of legislation titillates the white politicians down here. It gives the Governor the opportunity to go around the state and say, she's fighting drugs. Tell me, if you honestly can, that you think one single drug sale that was going to occur will not occur because of this bill. If we could take the time and expend the energy that is frittered away and wasted on these nonsensical bills, and direct them toward something that would be of substance, put some money in meaningful programs that attack the causes of these problems, then the Legislature could indeed say it's doing something and set a standard that the rest of the country could follow. Senator Conway can correctly tell you that a number of states have passed legislation such as this, but he cannot cite any statistics that indicate that this legislation, in any way, has impacted on the use, sale, possession, manufacture, derivation or whatever of drug. So why do it? Because it creates campaign issues for people who are running for office. Whenever there is a serious problem and actions that are supposed to be directed toward that problem miss the mark, the situation becomes worse. There are young people throughout the City of Omaha who watch television. They listen to the statements of the white experts, the media people, the station managers, the chief of police, the mayor talking about what is going to solve the drug problem, and they laugh. But sometimes people who try