

whereas I can read in various journals that are written about business people and employers, there is much talk about the need to rehabilitate people, to have not only stress management programs which don't relate to the use of illegal drugs, but drug treatment and rehabilitation programs for upper level management persons so that they can be salvaged and continue to work and contribute to the company, society at large and be better human beings. But when we get down to the peons on whose backs these companies survive and without whom none of these industries could function, they don't count. If you throw one of them out on the street, what difference does it make? There are thousands of them lined up to take this same job. So you use them, you use them up, then you throw them away and the thing that is so nice about the Nebraska Legislature, they don't even get unemployment compensation. Now the members of the Legislature, after doing their work can go to the Nebraska Club and imbibe a legal drug which is alcohol and assuage the guilt they may have felt about the things they did all day, but they're not going to be thrown out of the Legislature. They are not going to be denied a salary which is paid by taxpayers. They continue to get theirs. Maybe they're addicted to nicotine. So it just depends on the kind of poison that you select as to whether or not you're in that category of persons who are considered all right.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But there is no basic difference in the human frailty that causes a person to become addicted to nicotine, alcohol, cocaine, crack, marijuana or whatever the illegal chemical happens to be, or legal. But since some people's poison is of the kind that the better people use, you don't bother them. We need to start looking at some common denominator in all of these things that we talk about and if it's a problem that people have because they are people, we need to solve it as we would a people problem instead of making it a class problem. We have made it a class matter. You treat the upper class with the same infirmity one way and you treat the lower class, the laboring people an entirely different way, and that is what I find to be so difficult for me to deal with. I think this bill, the amendment that Senator Hefner is offering, is one that is pernicious and it should not be adopted even with Senator Hall's amendment and because of the problems I am having with it...