

not someone wants to prosecute certain individuals. Had investigations proceeded as we would normally expect them to have proceeded, it is very likely that charges would have been filed months ago in some instances, and certainly convictions would have been easier to come by. I am concerned, and I believe there are others on this floor, particularly those who have legal training, who are concerned about the ability to prove a case which is years old. The other concern that we all have, of course, is one in which we recognize that the perpetration of a crime on a very young child may not even be known to be a crime at the time in the eyes of the child. Furthermore, the overwhelming evidence that we have seen thus far indicates that the victims were made to feel that they were the ones that were guilty, and that they, in fact, were the ones who were involved in the criminal act, and that they shared at least the guilt, if not bore the preponderance of the guilt for the commission of the crime. How do you convince a young child, be they 8, 10 or younger, older, that they were, in fact, not guilty of a crime when an adult consistently and persistently and sometimes perhaps an adult with some authority insists that the individual child, minor, young person is in fact a collaborator, a cooperater, and in fact maybe even a perpetrator or instigator of the act? We are all concerned on this floor, I am sure, equally about protection of young people. I am concerned, as the evidence unfolds that comes to the committee, and as the phone calls and the visits come to me, about the depth and breadth of this kind of activity being perpetrated against young people in this state and in other states. I am concerned, as Senator Chambers has indicated, about addressing a specific problem with this legislation, or in fact trying to make it retroactive. But, as Senator Pirsch has pointed out, this legislation is not just directed at the victims allegedly of the Franklin situation, but as it applies to all of the young people in the State of Nebraska. I do not know yet at this time what course the prosecution will take. I am as concerned, as all of you are, about the fact that the principal involved in Franklin is now apparently going to be found incompetent to stand trial. If that occurs, then what happens next? How many other witnesses will remain silent? I am concerned, very frankly,...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...about the treatment that has been afforded some of the victims of the crimes, which I am sure is tending to