

streets today, and not only on our streets, but in our school areas as well. I also appreciate some of the stuff that is taking place in Omaha that I have been privy to that does deal with it on a very up front basis. My problem with the amendment is, and if I understand it correctly, this is the first amendment on page 1248 of the Journal, AM2843. This is the amendment that deals with the issue of making the possession of under an ounce of marijuana a misdemeanor. The problem with that, I think the reason the change in law took place in 1977 is when the Legislature dealt with it and took effect in 1978, was that when you got under an ounce, clearly you were talking about someone who is basically in possession of a marijuana cigarette, a joint. I don't know if they still call it that. They did back then when I was in school. But the issue is one that was changed because the courts were being clogged with these types of cases that brought people into the system because they were possessing less than an ounce, and this provision that allowed for a citation to be issued, a fine of \$100, a provision that then required for these individuals to take a course of study, go to a school for a minimum of five hours, ten hours maximum, and require that there be satisfactory completion of that, put into the record. But if they did not complete that, then they were cited again. They had to go through the whole thing again, had to pay another fine. What you did was you put in place a system that educated kids of the problem, and I will read right from the statute, and you are going to strike this provision when you adopt this portion of Senator Pirsch's amendment. It says in Section 29-433, which is referenced in the bill, such instruction shall include counseling on legal, medical, psychological, and social effects of drug use and abuse. Such course shall consist of a minimum of five hours, maximum, ten. Upon completion, blah, blah, blah, and it goes on to say that satisfactory completion is necessary within thirty days after the assignment or you are going to be guilty of another infraction. You are going to be guilty of another fine. You are going to have to go through the system until you get it right, until you accept it. What is happening is is that with the Pirsch amendment, what you do is you, basically, you do criminalize it. You do put it up to a misdemeanor. You allow every individual who gets nailed with that misdemeanor to have a jury trial. You clog the courts again. You, basically, make a heyday for the attorneys, I guess. If that is what you want to do, that is fine but that is exactly what will happen. You do away with any reference or any provision to the issue of putting these kids into an education program that says, hey, look, take