

a look at what you are doing. Because, and the reason for that is that you are dealing with, granted, you are dealing with a serious substance, you are talking about marijuana. You are talking about something that is sold and is out there and we have to deal with it day in and day out, but you are dealing with it in such a small amount at this point that you are not probably dealing with somebody who is either selling or somebody who is using...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...it in an abusive nature. What you are dealing with is somebody who actually happens to have in their possession a marijuana cigarette. I think the best public policy is to get them into some kind of an education program, fine them so it hurts, and at that level, let me tell you, it is going to hurt. Even \$100 hurts, \$100 is a lot of money. We don't seem to think about that when we deal with billions of dollars in terms of our budget, but \$100 fine is a large fine. Get them into the program so they are educated, get them out, give them an opportunity to straighten up. What you don't allow to happen if you adopt the Pirsch amendment is you don't allow those individuals an opportunity for education. You don't allow them a second chance and I understand the arguments that say we don't want pushers, we don't want drug dealers to proliferate our schools. I totally agree with that.

PRESIDENT: Time. Senator Chambers, please, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature, these are the kind of bills that I like and I am going to invite Senator Pirsch's attention to page 4, the first part of the amendment that has been divided, which would be in lines 1 through 4, where in line 3, we change the punishment from a Class IIIA misdemeanor to a Class II misdemeanor. Am I correct so far? And in addition, we would put in a minimum of \$300 fine. Okay, now Section 8 will come into play because under Section 8 anybody who violates the section I am talking about within a thousand feet of a school zone will be bumped up into the next higher category, is that correct? So that would take it, if this amendment is adopted, from a Class II misdemeanor to a Class I misdemeanor, correct? Now, Senator Pirsch, would you look at the penalty for a Class I misdemeanor and you will see that by committing this crime within a thousand feet of a