

school, you will have less chance of a punishment by bumping up into the next category because there is no minimum. Under the amendment you are offering here for a Class II, you are setting a minimum of \$300 fine, but if they commit that offense within a thousand feet of a school, they commit an offense that has no minimum, how about that? Members of the Legislature, this is an attempt to try to put into this bill an ill-conceived bill of the Governor's which failed. So by doing what is being done here and amending the present bill, 976, with these new harsher punishments, and they are harsher because they install minimums, under the existing portions of the bill if you commit that crime within a thousand feet of a school zone, you are bumped into the next higher category where, under the present statute, there is no minimum, which means you get a harsher punishment if you commit it away from a school than if you commit it near a school. Because what Senator Pirsch is...she is not saying that everyone of these misdemeanor offenses that exist in the statute now will contain a minimum. No, she is creating new punishments for these offenses that she is talking about in her bill. And those new punishments will make a mockery of the bill, and the law that she is trying to pass. So to be frank with you, I hope you adopt part one of this amendment that I have divided. The part we are discussing now would be found at the top of page 4 in lines 3 and 4, and I am speaking strongly in support of that provision. I am asking that you adopt that so that somebody who commits a crime close to a school gets a smaller punishment than if they commit a crime far from a school. And with the puzzled looks I am getting, I am going to go through this again. Senator Pirsch with her amendment is saying that if you violate this marijuana law, the new punishment with the amendment she is offering will be one that contains a minimum of \$300 because the present offense does not have a minimum, is that clear? Now if you commit that offense near a school, then the punishment is the next highest...the next level of crime,...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...which would take you to a Class I misdemeanor. A Class I misdemeanor has no minimum at all. So, if you commit the crime away from the school, the minimum you can get is \$300. If you commit the crime within 1,000 feet of the school, the minimum is nothing. The war on drugs, as Sheriff Dick Roth said in the other article that I missed (sic) with you, misses the target because these things are not well thought out. They are put out there to achieve a political