

else. So when you pass these laws, the most you can hope for is that it would place at the hands of a racist a tool to engage in more racism. But if you put all of those things aside and just look at it in a vacuum, you are not doing anything. You are not doing anything at all, and when you create discretion in a judge as far as sentencing, the judge can do anything within that discretionary swing that is allowed by the law. So saying 10 years to life doesn't mean anything different from 10 years to 50 years, or five years to 50 years.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time. Senator Pirsch, please. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now cease? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Chambers, would you like to close on the adoption of your amendment?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, I would, Mr. Chairman. I want to give Sheriff Dick Roth some credit here by reading into the record something that he said in the Omaha World-Herald, dated September 29, 1989. "'The United States' war on drugs has gone from one battlefield to the other but never will be successful until it incorporates a dedicated system of education and treatment,' Douglas County Sheriff Richard Roth said Thursday. 'The War on drugs is a bunch of garbage,' Roth told the Suburban Rotary Club at Anthony's restaurant. 'It's like the war on poverty. It won't work. The problem is we're treating the symptoms, not the disease.' Roth said local, state and federal anti-drug problems (sic) have not worked in the past and will not work in the future. 'The problem is our citizens,' Roth said. 'We are the No. 1 market for illegal drugs in the world. We have 25 to 30 million people using drugs. Any time law enforcement comes up against numbers like that, we're bound to lose.' The solution, Roth said, is a combined effort of education and treatment. Businesses should demand a drug-free workplace, he said. Children should have the anti-drug message drilled into them regularly, he said. 'We've seen a lessening of smoking in recent years because of anti-smoking education, Roth said. We can do the same thing with drugs.' For those already on drugs, Roth said, free or low-cost treatment centers should be available. 'We don't have a treatment center available to the average citizens of Omaha, Roth said. We have some very fine treatment centers, but they're very expensive.