

of his or her sentence suspended for any reason." Suppose a person files an appeal and the appeal overturns the conviction? Then you've got to execute the sentence anyway. That's crazy. Senator Bernard-Stevens, this is not just a poorly drafted bill. This is the kind of thing that the Judiciary Committee is worthy...did this come out of the Judiciary Committee? Oh yeah, oh, okay. Yes, it did. This is the kind of thing you expect to come out of the Judiciary Committee, but this reaches a new low. You're going to execute a sentence even if the conviction is overturned on appeal. That's the kind of thing that creeps into a bill such as this when it's going, its purpose is to carry out a national agenda. George Bush decided he needed an issue and he picked it up during the campaign when Jesse Jackson touched a responsive chord in the public by talking about drugs. After Jesse Jackson raised the issue and these white politicians saw the reaction, that little short guy from Massachusetts grabbed the first "George Deukmejian"? "George Dukakis", he did it first. Then "Ronald Bush" jumped onto it also, and to show how shallow they were, they had no proposals, no rationale. They just said more prisons, and somebody else said that's not enough, then the death penalty. How about the army and the national guard and the navy? All of this insane nonsense, and the unfortunate thing is that there are politicians at lower levels who take all this mess seriously and they knew it was mess and that's why they never offered it before, but they decided that if it is, indeed, so serious that President Bush is going to go this way, maybe we on the local level missed something. So, despite misgivings, this kind of stuff like LB 976 comes before the committee and it should have been killed. I can't stop this kind of stuff in the Judiciary Committee from finding its way to the floor, but once out here the body has an obligation to not enact this just as a favor to a senator, whoever that senator is. How many times would I have liked to have been able to make an appeal to the majority on this floor in the words of "do me the favor"? You have walked on me so many times, be fair, be just, and somebody would say, hey, Ernie's got a point. In addition to being fair and just, the proposal has validity, but what I read, what I read in national magazines, the way Ernie talks on the floor is so upsetting I can't vote with him even when I want to. That's what I get. Now here comes Senator Bernard-Stevens talking some nonsense like strip a good amendment...

PRESIDENT NICHOL: One minute.