

PRESIDENT NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that more people are killed than anybody else. You inflame people's passions; you get votes. But in the meantime, you do irreparable harm to those impressionable people. This kind of punishment put in the statutes ought to be stricken. It makes no sense. It is not logical and it's completely out of step with the attempt that was made years ago to bring some kind of logic to the sentencing structure. Now I know Senator Lowell Johnson did not sit down and craft these punishments himself. I'm sure that somebody recommended the bill and he had confidence in those people because they have the expertise. So I'm addressing my comments to Senator Johnson because it's his amendment, but I'm not blaming him for what's in there. What I'm trying to do is call it to the attention of enough of us to strike it from that amendment. You would still have a punishment, a possible punishment of 10 years to 50 years for somebody giving a counterfeit substance to another person.

PRESIDENT NICHOL: Time. Thank you. Senator Morrissey, did you wish to speak about this?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Yes, Mr. President and members. I would rise to support Senator Chambers' amendment. What he's saying only makes sense. We're losing sight of what we're doing. In the name of drugs, we're going to do whatever it takes. We're saying drugs is the most heinous crime, the most heinous crime that we can think of. Again, I'll refer to Secretary Bennett's trip to Lincoln and the hypocrisy of what we're doing here. We know that alcohol is the biggest problem with our kids. We know that for a fact. We know alcohol and tobacco kill many times more people in this country, in this state than drugs, all drugs combined, but we...it's popular to pick on drugs. We experienced this in the railroad for six, seven years. All of a sudden there was a drug problem in the railroad. Some senator's mistress died on an Amtrak crash in Washington, D.C., so all of a sudden, boy, TV cameras flicked on and we're on drug testing no matter what. Talk to the Senators and House of Representative about other safety issues, we don't want to hear it; drugs is issue; we don't want to hear it. But there's more people hurt by these other safety problems, we don't want to hear it; drugs is the issue. And that's what we're doing here. That's what we're doing here. And I hate to just keep saying what Senator Chambers has said, but it's just simply because it's political; because it's the hot issue right now. We refuse