

SENATOR PIRSCH: I don't believe I will support it, no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So then from your failure to support it, you would not see...

SENATOR PIRSCH: Would you support an amendment to the alcohol that would make it a stiffer penalty and change...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What we need to do, and then you ask me the question, is scrap all of these tack-on piecemeals and say we are going to look at all the laws relative to all of the drugs, including alcohol, and then set appropriate punishments for all of them, then you and I would find something at last we can work on. But when we are going to piecemeal and pitch and patch because there is political hay to be made, and to quote Senator Morrissey, these issues are hot...that is all that I would ask you because my time is almost out.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Okay.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Because it is a hot issue, then we wind up with an illogical system of punishments. The inconsistencies that not only make the Legislature look ridiculous but bring courts, judges, jurors, and prosecutors...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...into contempt and subject them to criticism because there is the appearance that a greater punishment is placed on a lesser offense. Now when people stand upon this floor, if they ever do, and say "Liz" Karnes is right to say that alcohol has to be dealt with because it is the most serious problem facing youngsters, but we are so afraid of alienating those interests that want to push alcohol on our children that we cannot treat it as the drug it is, there is a word that starts with "h" that I am known to use but I am not going to use it. I will say the conduct describes what that person is. So I don't want to hear people talking against alcohol anymore, whether it is drunk driving, giving it to minors, or anything else unless we adopt this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hall, followed by Senator Morrissey.