

jail, he was arrested because he had gone to the house of a family who had befriended him. He was kicking on the door, banging on the door, told the people that he is hearing these voices, that they knew he was prone to hear. They called the police. The police asked him, if they let him go, would he leave. He said, no, he would not leave, that the voices were talking to him and they should take him to jail. So they took him to jail. They knew that he had a mental problem, because he had been picked up before. He wanted to go to the hospital. From what I gather, and I don't know whether it's true or not, there was an attempt made to find space for him in Douglas County Hospital. They had no beds available, so he was returned to a jail cell at the Douglas County Correctional Center. Some time during the night he used a sheet to tie around his neck, they said, and bent his legs upward, behind his back, wrapped the other end of the sheet around his ankles, then extended his legs, thereby drawing the sheet tight and strangling himself. That's what they said. A grand jury was called, pursuant to a bill that this Legislature enacted that requires the convening of a grand jury any time a person dies in police custody. That required the calling of a grand jury. The grand jurors determined that nothing criminal had been done. However, they did make recommendations about how such a person ought to be treated and handled, the services that ought to be made available. Always recommended changes come after the fact, after somebody has died, despite the fact that there was enough evidence to clearly define the nature and scope of the problem that needed to be addressed. So there has not been any more money appropriated by the Legislature to deal with that problem. We may have somebody else who is so disordered in the mind, so lost, so bewildered that death seems to be an appropriate way to...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...end whatever problems are being faced. And if, in the custody of the state, that person takes his life, or if it's a female her life, then there should be a collective feeling of guilt, because action that could have been taken to prevent that was not taken. When we can see circumstances that are moving toward a predictable end, and that end is devastation for people, then it's difficult for society to say it did not will that devastating end. That's one of the reasons I find so much fault with this bill, those drug bills and others we bring before us that offer a simplistic solution to a very complex