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Fortunately, some of the committees stopped a number of very bad so-called antidrug bills from coming to the floor. One would have indicated that students should take a loyalty oath at an institution of higher learning that they would not use drugs, and if they did, then they could go on probation, and if they had another problem, then they could be put out of the school. That was done away with, but it shows the type of hysteria, the kinds of hysterical pieces of legislation that will be enacted when politicians find something that they think has the public's interest and attention. It is a mistake for the Legislature to do that. Not a great amount of harm is done if politicians just beat the bushes and talk this kind of nonsense because there are others who can counteract that. Columnists will oppose it, other politicians, experts in the field, even some law enforcement persons, but when these things come before a Legislature in the form of a bill and it is to be enacted into law, then we have moved it to a different level and it becomes something of concern to the citizens because a policy is put in place thereby, and this policy, as a matter of fact, criminalizes conduct and it does it on a shotgun basis. Any time we are going to create new crimes, we should consider the impact that those criminalizations will have throughout the system. There are more demands placed on law enforcement officers, even those who think it is foolish to have these kind of laws. There are greater demands on prosecutors and, obviously, there will be a greater demand on court time, court personnel, then the systems through which people are...in which people are incarcerated from the local jails through the county jails right up through the penitentiary. We talk always about the end result of unwise actions but very seldom is anything done in the first instance to consider whether or not that action is wise. If we could just once look at causes of problems and not just the symptoms, we would be in a position to order this society through the legislation that we pass in such a way as to move it toward, not only an achievable goal, but a desirable one. With the kind of laws that are enacted on the drug issue, there are goals articulated that are not even achievable. If I want to move from here to the Speaker's desk, I should plot my course so that when I have finished walking that is where I will arrive, but if I turn in the opposite direction and begin to walk, the only way I will reach where he is is either to change my course at some point or walk completely around the earth. In either case, it is wasted time, it is wasted effort, and along the way there may become so much discouragement, because I am moving farther from the goal, that

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