

from the beginning, is not to reflect ignorance. When people in my district don't understand and don't know, their ignorance does not bind me to be as ignorant as they are when I cast a vote to formulate policy. This is not a tough on crime issue. We're talking about an administrative tool. People on this floor don't take the time to find out the problems that the Director of Corrections at the state level has, that the Director of Douglas County Corrections has, that the Director of Lancaster County Corrections has, or the director of any other correctional department would have in this state. They need something with which to work. And if you can get them to speak as honestly to you as they do to me, you would see them telling you, the Legislature makes me feel like tearing my hair out; they respond and react as politicians, but we are the ones who have to pick up the pieces of the damage that they do. Right now, because the whole question of good time has been made a political issue, there are different groups of inmates serving prison sentences under different rules for granting good time, and this is one of the stickiest areas in the institution. Because men and women who come in later than somebody else will get out earlier, based on what the Legislature did when it was reacting politically to what they perceived as a demand to get tough on crime. When we pass one of those stupid, so called good time bills, we cannot change and undo the damage that we did by rectifying it with a later bill, because all of these bills take effect and apply only to sentences imposed after the bill takes effect. The Legislature cannot modify a sentence that was imposed prior to the enactment of a good time law, only the pardons board can modify a sentence in that instance. I am the one who carried LB 816, a couple of years ago, that changed the good time law at the state level. And, Senator Jensen, this was brought at the behest of the administration, of the Governor and the Corrections Department because the overcrowding was such, the inability to deal with all the different standards for granting good time made it a totally unmanageable system. And when I see people like Senator Witek, who don't even know the difference between a jail and a prison,...

PRESIDENT ROBAK PRESIDING

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...doing all this yammering and yapping as though she's a penology expert, it is all that I can do to prevent myself from standing up and shouting, here, here, that