

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I yield my time to Senator Chambers, if he would like to have extra time.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Madam President and members of the Legislature, Senator Pedersen visits the jails and the prisons. I used to visit them a lot more than I have time to do now. But there is a tremendous difference between sitting here in the Legislature and responding as a politician and saying lock people up and throw away the keys and going out to these facilities and seeing the reality of trying to manage them. Some of the people on this floor wouldn't care if guards got bumped off, if inmates got bumped off, if there were homosexual rapes, if there were brutal assaults. They don't even care. They can go out and put on a campaign brochure, I voted for stiffer sentences. Senator Pedersen said that these Christian people, these ones who call themselves Christians are interested in building more jails and they don't care who is hurt and so forth and in his opinion that was not Christian. Well when I look at the inquisition, the Crusades and some of these other things, I believe it is Christian. That's what Christianity is about. When you hear somebody talking about harsher punishments, they're Christians. When you hear people saying, burn them at the stake, they're Christians. Not all of them. But the ones who push it the hardest not only are Christians, but they buttress that position by saying God requires it, Christ requires it, and all this other nonsensical stuff, and the record speaks for itself. The problem that people encounter with me is that they're dealing with somebody who has read and continues to read a lot of history and will see what churches, Christians and other have done that brought damage into this world. As a matter of fact, most Christians are anti-Christ. Christ was the one who talked about the compassion. Christ was the one who talked about the power of redemption. Christ is the one who, if you accept the myth, forgave a murderer on the cross with him and yet these Christians are the ones who say redemption is impossible. You cannot rescue somebody who has done wrong. Well that's an anti-Christ position and that's what I look at, the reality, not all the puffing and blowing that I hear. And our job, those of us who don't make a profession of religion is so difficult because the place from whence justice and fairness should come is the place where you find the opposite emanating. So this bill is supported and requested by those who have to manage