

What the Parole Board does...and the two have to be kept distinct, is to administer the law as it applies to the sentence that was imposed by the judge. So, in granting a person a parole, they do so under the law existing at the time the person was sentenced. Senator Hudkins' amendment was unnecessary but it didn't hurt anything because it restated the law. It recognized the distinction between the judicial function, the legislative function, the executive function and the Pardons Board function. All of these are different and distinct. Legislators manifest ignorance in a lot of the bills and amendments...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...they offer. Since we are talking about an equal protection question, we ought to give it serious thought. Senator Witek's amendment is impractical as well as unconstitutional. The judge imposes the sentence. The judge does not get involved in the day to day operation of the prisons or the correctional facilities. Senator Witek is asking, by her amendment, that that be done. That is totally impractical. It is totally inappropriate and I think that we ought to defeat her amendment, then go back to the bill and look at the philosophical or policy question contained in it.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. I understand there's an announcement.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Robinson would like to have the Government Committee meet in Executive Session in Room 2022 now. Government Committee, Room 2022 now.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I think everyone knows that most of these have already been plea bargained down in a lot of these cases. So when you're talking about them not being violent crimes, I disagree. I think motor vehicle homicide is a violent crime. I think beating your spouse is a violent crime. I think sexual assault in the third degree is a violent crime. These are violent crimes. Whether they are receiving short sentences or sentences of less than a year or not doesn't, to me, determine necessarily that they're nonviolent crimes. So I disagree with that. And now we have attorneys making...or not even attorneys, senators making