

support this amendment. Senator Chambers, I don't have a lot more to say. If you'd like to have the rest of my time, I will give it to you freely, and if you have any comments there that would help me, I'd appreciate it.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Chambers, you have two and a half minutes left.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, and thank you, Senator Crosby, and I am going to try to be as collegial this afternoon as I possible can because when I look at the number of amendments that have been offered to this bill, it seems to me, anyway, that people are looking at the contents of the bill. It is not strictly a political knee-jerk reaction where everybody is going to accept everything in it simply because it has been designated the Governor's crime bill, and there is supposed to be quite a bit of legislative response to it. I don't have much time on what Senator Crosby gave me of her time, but I wanted to make a few of those kind of preliminary statements, and I am going to deal specifically with what she talked about. I know that as the afternoon progresses and we go into the evening, then into the night, and then tomorrow, it may seem that I am overly lenient toward those accused of crimes, that I am overly sympathetic to those convicted of crimes because I am against these minimum sentences, but I am taking a broad, long-range view of how these things that we do will affect the system known as the criminal justice system and add to that the corrections system. We can heap up a lot of punishments and penalties because of how we feel about a specific offense and require people to serve mandatory sentences without possibility of parole and no reduction by way of good time, we are going to fill up the existing prison space, be required to build additional prisons. They will be filled up. Then when wiser people come along, or our second and better thought comes along, we cannot modify...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...the sentences of those who have already been sentenced. We will acknowledge that ten years was too long, but we can't change it. Only the Pardons Board, and because there is so much political posturing on issues that come before the Pardons Board, they are not going to change any of these sentences. So when you have an overcrowded situation, the federal courts are going to order this state to release people,