

tax. There was one day we were not even in session and they carried one of those on closed circuit television and I think people from other parts of the state could participate on property taxes. When they talk about assessing value to people's property for the purpose of laying taxes you find lawsuits being filed, you find angry citizens and a participation of the kind maybe we wish would be shown on every important issue, but that's what people in Nebraska are talking about, property tax, not crime. Crime is always going to be here. When the politicians stop exaggerating it then the issue falls into perspective. Actually, because the age group which commits most of the crimes is becoming smaller as people get older, the overall rate of crime is diminishing. The head of the law enforcement training center had said in the newspaper the other day, when he was talking about the reduction in crime, that maybe there has been an overstatement about the seriousness of this problem, not that it isn't serious. He didn't say that. But there had been an overstatement about exactly what the condition of this society is in as far as the crime problem. We should not overreact. What I would rather see us do, instead of creating harsher punishments and putting people in jail for a longer time and setting longer minimum sentences, is to pour our efforts and money into doing things for the younger people who might run afoul of the law, to try to prevent that in the first instance, but if it does happen, have the kind of programs that can rehabilitate them and make up for deficiencies that they have been subjected to so that when they come out they won't graduate to an adult prison. But we cannot bring ourselves to spend a lot of time and money on prevention and correction where it will do some good. We say, after the horse is gone, we will shut the barn door, we will build more prisons which will make people worse, and that has been the history and the experience all over the country throughout history. We will say longer sentences, harsher mandatory minimums. None of these things has worked. Since the Soviet Union fell apart and Russia is now the strongest individual republic, they are having serious problems of alcoholism, extortion and other types of crimes and they're a relatively, racially speaking, homogeneous society. So it is a situation where, as capitalism's influence comes in,...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: .. market forces are given a free hand, people have lost jobs, factories have shut down, those who could count on a living cannot make it anymore, and when they started