

a program of cracking down on drinking because the alcoholism was so bad bootlegging broke out, and it's now of such gigantic proportions that the government is trying to do something about it because so many people are dying from bad hootch, but they're not going to be able to correct it. The problem arises because we don't look at the things that cause people to do conduct that is detrimental to themselves and society at large. What we're doing here is not wise and it is not appropriate.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Before the next speaker, Senator Dierks has as his guests in the north balcony today 20 eighth graders from St. Rose's School in Crofton, Nebraska, and with them is their teacher. Would you all please stand and be welcomed by your Legislature. Thank you for being with us today. Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I have been listening to Senator Chambers with a great deal of interest and I want to tell you that his analysis of this matter is absolutely correct. I don't always agree with Senator Chambers, as you know, on many issues, but his analysis of the problem that we have here is...is accurate. The list of offenses that are listed here requires, as he said, intent to commit a felonious crime. Motor vehicle homicide does not require intent. It's like comparing apples and oranges, and I will support his amendment even though it somewhat vitiates the effect of the committee amendment. And just by background, and I don't think this has been called to the attention of the body and I doubt that it's in the record, but the Lincoln Star had an editorial here a few days ago and I just want to read two paragraphs out of it. It says, and I quote, "Nebraska doesn't need a three strikes and you're out law. We had one for years...we've had one for years. The state's habitual criminal laws provide stiffer penalties for people who are convicted a third time for any felony. The current penalty for an habitual criminal is 10 to 60 years. Under the current good-time law, the minimum time in prison is 5 years for someone sentenced to the 10-year minimum who has caused few problems in prisons and is released on parole at the earliest date possible." It says, "The crime bill ratchets the time up to a 25-year mandatory minimum for some crimes and no reduction for good time." I think this answers one of the questions that was posed earlier in the debate. There's no reduction for good time on the 25-year mandatory minimum. We've...quite simply, we've had an habitual criminal statute for years in this state. It's worked