

that, I want to ask Senator Lindsay a question, since he came back. Senator...

SENATOR HALL: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Lindsay, had the original approach by the committee been to equalize the two situations, that is between powder and crack cocaine, by bringing crack down to the level of powder cocaine? Had that been the first approach?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Yeah.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And with that approach Senator Abboud would not have voted to advance the bill, is that correct?

SENATOR LINDSAY: That's my understanding, yeah.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And Senator Pedersen moved that they reverse the reduction of powder...of crack to the level of powder to instead raise the level of powder to the level of crack and thereby increasing the punishment on powder cocaine, and with that being done Senator Abboud's vote was obtained to advance the bill.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. And the reason I wanted to go through that so that you could see what the background behind this was, and nobody has done anything that is inappropriate, but I didn't want to make it seem like I was spinning something out of whole cloth. I think the approach that the committee was going to take originally is the correct one, that we should equalize this. Something else the committee did and I'm pleased, is that they've spoken of both types of cocaine or both forms of cocaine in terms of grams. At first they spoke of powder in terms of ounces, cocaine...I meant crack in terms of grams, and it takes a lot more grams to make an ounce, so it seemed like you had fewer...you had lesser amounts of cocaine powder than you did of crack, because they'd just look at the number of ounces and not see that ounces follow the number, and with crack it was grams. So what has been done now through a conversion, which ought to exist and remain no matter what we do with reference to how we equalize the handling of it, both forms should be dealt with in terms of grams. That is going to be done. So having said these things, I'm going to bring an