

the basis for creating a disparity in sentencing at the national level. All of that shows the total incapacity of this country to deal with the problem of drugs. Tobacco kills more people than all people are killed by drugs, whether it's murder, overdoses, or anything else. The total number of people wiped out because of any connection with drugs is infinitesimally small compared to the 440,000 people, 440,000 people who die a year from tobacco smoke, yet tobacco is legal. Senator Pedersen can probably give you statistics on how many people are harmed by the consumption of alcohol, which is legal, but since those are booming businesses, and the right people got on the ground floor, the use of those drugs is deemed legal, and they are far more deadly than any and all of the hard drugs and soft drugs put together, and everybody has to acknowledge that nicotine is a drug and alcohol is a drug. So they are drugs. They do far more damage but both are legal, but you don't see any robberies or killings to get cigarettes. If they would decriminalize drugs, some people would be seized with fear and trembling and saying the country is going to go to Hades in a handbasket. That's what's happening now. What they have found is that they have produced a strain of marijuana that is probably twenty, and maybe more, times more potent than traditional marijuana, and this is something our white kids are using, marijuana, grass, weed, is that they are doing, and they had a story on national television and all these young white kids were talking about whenever they have a get-together, this kind of marijuana is smoked, and they don't see it as being bad because everybody is focusing on crack, powder cocaine, and in some places heroin. And by the way, heroin was deemed to be the drug for black people. But they have got a strain of heroin that is so pure now and so potent that it can be sniffed like cocaine, and in Denver, they are experiencing a problem with it. And the heroin sniffers are white. But you don't see anybody saying because heroin is so terribly addictive that we ought to make the punishment for this kind of heroin ten times the punishment for the traditional kind which you mainline. So there are all kinds of inconsistencies in this so-called war against drugs. Nothing being done is effective. The rapid increase in incarceration is directly attributable to the so-called war on drugs. Here's how they catch a lot of these...these drugs, they called them dope fiends when I was growing up. Here's how they catch these dope fiends. They go to a corner in a poor community and we could go out, as naive as you all are or pretend to be, and we could round up enough junkies to fill up the Lancaster County jail. So they go out there and they stand on the corner and get these