

has all of the power. The law is supposed to be that item or element that holds society together and at least keeps a minimum of civilized discourse and intercourse among the citizens. And the only way the law can command the respect that is necessary for it to be able to fulfill its function is to be perceived by the public as fair in its operation on everybody who comes before the law. So I emphasize, it does not give me consolation to say that if we raise the punishment for powder cocaine to the level of crack and, therefore, we will get more white people, that that makes me feel good. It does not. An inequitable law is not appropriate regardless of whom the inequity falls upon. And I am trying to speak in this way so that maybe people who don't genuinely understand my approach can get a better understanding or sensing of it. I don't just want to put...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...more white people in jail. I don't want to put more of anybody in jail, but this is what I have said in the past. If there were doing to apply the law to white people as they do to black people, there would be more white people in jail because they get the breaks that we don't. So I'm saying give us the same break that you give white people, and in this instance, I am saying lower that punishment for crack down to the level of the cocaine. And Senator Abboud is not able to really give a good argument against it. Senator Pedersen really gave no argument against it, and not one of the problems that exists because of drug dealing is going to be touched by our making the law more inequitable than it is now. We are reacting in an emotional way, and saying I'm so mad, I'm not going to take it anymore, and let them stop selling drugs. Well, I say let them stop committing prostitution, let them stop stealing, embezzling,...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...let them stop doing everything and we can tear down the prisons, but that is not going to happen.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, the reason that there is a disparity between the crack cocaine and the powder cocaine is that crack is much more