

year, meaning that for every year that you were sentenced to you got six months good time put in your bank account, so to speak, and it's yours to lose. If you violate the law...well the rules of the institution of the kind that allows them to take good time from you, they subtract that or deduct it from your account. Other states do it the opposite way. You go into the institution with no good time. And if you behave then good time is credited to you. This way is probably better because you tell the inmate you have a proprietary interest in this good time. Although we've taken a lot from you, including your freedom which is probably the most important thing, you are coming here with something that is under your control and that you can handle in a way that is to your betterment, that's this good time. And if you behave you keep it and you get out early. And good time determines from the bottom end when you're eligible to be considered for parole. It doesn't mean that you will necessarily be granted parole, but it means that when your good time is taken into consideration and the minimum part of the sentence has been met, the parole board can consider whether they want to parole you or not, they don't have to. And you subtract, by virtue of good time, from the top of the sentence...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to determine when, if you are not paroled, they've got to turn you loose. So from the bottom end you calculate the good time for the purpose of determining when you're eligible to be considered for parole. The Parole Board, even if you don't commit any violations and you keep all the good time you're given, doesn't have to parole you. But all that good time will be subtracted from your total sentence. And when you've served enough time minus all that good time then they've got to turn you loose and you're not on parole, you are released totally. But the parole board tries to release a person while they still have some time they have to serve, and that keeps them under some management and direction by the Parole Board. I said all that to try to give you an idea of how this thing works, and then when I turn my light on again I'm going to try to show...

SENATOR HALL: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...you why I think we're not doing a good thing.