

it easy because we know that this bill, in some form, is going to pass. In the same way that the Bible would say in some instances, and it came to pass, or as I like to say if somebody had a blockage and they took Ex-Lax, the next morning they would say, and it came to pass. In the same way that all of those instances are designed to let you know that something definite is going to occur, I think the passage of this bill is going to occur, but there is some changes I would like to see in it first, and I believe from the amendments filed and that we will consider, there...

SENATOR HALL: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...are others who want changes too.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Beutler, your light is next.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Lindsay, just maybe this would be a good time to have a discussion on a letter I received with respect to the crime bill, and it is from a public defender who is concerned about the good-time provisions in the bill and, more specifically, with respect to the three months of discretionary good time that is the good time that is dependent upon participation in the prisoner individual...individualized prisoner program, and he points out, to begin with, that these good-time laws are considered to be what he calls a liberty interest by the courts, I suppose referring to the fact that it has to do with when you get out and when you get your freedom, and that on most of those kinds of issues, when the issue is raised by the prisoner, the court will appoint, since most prisoners have no funds to do so, counsel for them on this kind of a case, and he further points out that...well, he pointed out that on the last round of good-time changes, the public defender in this particular county was called upon to defend a whole number of cases, and the bottom line is he is concerned about a huge number of cases with this go-around and part of the reason he is concerned is because of the discretionary nature and several of the factors that are set out in the bill that perhaps are a little bit vague with regard to when or under what conditions a prisoner would be credited with good time. And he points out that all these situations are individualized, that is they are all going to be what he calls fact specific. In other words, you are not going to be able to dispose of large numbers of these cases by simply resolving a principle or two, but it is