

stupid. People say that about the mule. The mule simply will not do what it thinks is unwise to do and human beings, in their arrogance, will say that means that the mule is stupid. They think horses are smarter than mules because horses do whatever human beings tell them to do and they are so dumb they will run back into a burning building and get burned up, but a mule won't. This one man, Senator Maurstad, was going to show that he was smarter than the mule, and I'm sure you've heard this. He had the mule hooked up to this wagon and the mule was not going to pull it so what the man did was lit a fire under the mule and the mule walked just far enough so the fire was right under the wagon and it burned the wagon up and the mule went on about his business, and the man was scratching his head. He said, well, maybe a mule is smarter than I thought. Well, maybe it didn't take much to be smarter than what he thought, but it was one thing sure, the mule was smarter than him. Well, sometimes what appears to be madness, and I'm not talking about anger, is not madness at all. It means that when you understand a process there is only a certain way that that process can be made to work and you have to be willing to stay with it and lay with it until people come around to seeing that we are the lawmakers. What we're doing is serious business, and if we're going to do it, we ought to do it in a way that is right. Several Senators who, prior to today, had not really looked at the bill, now see that there is a great deal wrong with it. This bill was not drafted by those people that Senator Schimek said we should call law...lawyers, however she said it, instead of lawyers as I would say it, but if legal minds interested as Senator Brashear suggested in really dealing with these issues of criminal law, you shouldn't take ten big matters and throw them all in a bucket and shake them up and however way they come out that's what you do. In some instances, they will take an offense and bump the punishment up. They'll jump over two classes of felony to show they're tough on crime, but by so doing they make this offense more serious than one which, in fact, is more serious and deadly. So some of these kind of things that they put in the bill, all they did, if it said a Class IV felony, they just jump it up to a Class ID because that makes it look like they're tough on crime. But they don't look at how that skews the entire sentencing structure we have because we make less serious offenses more, we punish them more harshly than we do the more serious offenses. That one that I have to keep coming back to where you...and Senator Beutler gave a good example, if you reach into a vehicle through the window and take the cassette, you don't have to take the whole...the