

but what I see with crime is such a multidimensional, multifaceted issue, and I hope that at some time we can take the time to really go through it. When the Criminal Code was looked at in the seventies, they spend years in developing it, and then they spend days on the floor working through it, a couple hours a day going through the details, really, truly working on the issue. That's what we need to do with crime. We need to take a very in-depth look at it this interim. Then we need to come back and really take some time with the issue next session. We seem to have both last year and this year the issue coming forward, the bill coming forward late in the process without much time, the time pressures are there, we can't really get into any additional types of topics, and so we end up doing the best that we can do under the circumstance that we are under. But I hope, what I hope is that what we have done is the first step, and there will be more steps that follow, but what I am worried about is that we will take this step and feel like we've done it, and we're done, and crime is done, let's move on to something else. Now we all know that the public is concerned about crime, but at the same time, somebody was talking about all the calls that we've gotten, all the pressure we've received to do something about crime. Well, the only pressure I've received is from the editorial pages of the World-Herald, and some of the stories that we've seen written that seem to blast the Legislature for not having done something. In terms of my district, I have heard Senator Crosby say I haven't gotten one call from anybody concerned that we didn't deal with the crime bill. Maybe you have. Maybe if we'd go back to the districts and we will hear more, obviously, that's possible. But I am just saying that I am hearing a whole lot more as Senator Crosby is about some of these budget cuts that we're facing. The crime issue is big. It is a big concern, but in terms of the public, I don't think they are being fooled by this so-called symbol, that 371 is going to solve the problem. I think this Legislature needs to dedicate itself to taking the time to more truly prioritize the issue and look at it from the various aspects of what needs to be done. In my view, that means looking at questions like access to guns, and other firearms, talking about violence on TV and in other forms of medium that are out there that our young peoples look at, the breakdown in the families that's occurred, and the values people have, and the communities, the sense of community that is lost in too many places. We've got to talk about the court system, I mean the swift and sure dealing with the crime. Now look at the O.J. circus that is going on. I mean it is incredible how our court