

Legislature declares it to be so. The number of years attached as a punishment to that conduct is determined by the Legislature. Senators on this floor tumble head over heels to see who can outdo whom in being the most harsh, the most unfeeling, the most punitive. And as Senator Pedersen pointed out, there are also people outside the Legislature who take that attitude. But when it befalls a member of their family or a friend, suddenly they see the reality of what it is they have been pushing for and it's a reality which is very ugly, which is very inhumane; and if people who profess to be Christians followed the teachings of Christ, it's un-Christian. But based on the narrow-minded, punitive attitude of these right-wing Christians, what is being proposed is very Christian. You can expect it to be harsh, unfeeling and dead end in its results. I think it is kind of pathetic to hear people talk on the floor about...of the Legislature now about a long-range view when all they're interested in is dollars. You think many people on this floor cares what happens once somebody is sent to the penitentiary if it's not somebody they know or a friend of theirs? But we know that politicians can intervene on behalf of people they care about to see that they get a special break, to see that they get consideration. I just saw today where ol' Watt (phonetic) who used to be head of some federal department got some months of probation after committing a crime which would send an ordinary peison to the penitentiary. So we know that there are certain categories of people who are not going to be punished for the wrong that they do. I want to have the opportunity while we discuss this bill to talk about the disparate sentencing that occurs between black and white people. I want to talk about the way powder cocaine is dealt with, the way crack is dealt with, and the way the scourge that is coming to the Midwest...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...finally from both coasts that is sweeping through the white community called crack or white ice, methamphetamine, and the doctors and the chemists and the law enforcement experts say it is deadlier and more addictive than crack. But you know how the white people are dealing with this white drug that is causing an upshot in crime among white people and putting their young people in jail? Not harsher punishments like they did crack. They're talking about laws to restrict the obtaining of the chemicals that you use to make amphetamines