

your judgement that even one or two or three will make no difference on the overcrowding situation as far as the percent overcrowding and what, of course, it may or may not do?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Let me give you a direct answer, and then if you'll allow me to take a minute to tell you what I'm looking at.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: You may.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If you have a container and it's filled to the brim and there's a lid on it, you can't put anything else in it. If the lid is made out of rubber or a soft or flexible substance, you can force additional fluid into it and the lid will give until there is so much pressure that it would knock the lid off. Anything that is done to drain some of the liquid out of that container would relieve the pressure. So it's obvious that if you build one Quonset hut, you relieve the overcrowding. If you build two Quonset huts, you relieve it by more. If you build three, you relieve it by still more. But those activities do not address the problem, all it does is encourage additional building so that you can put more people in, because the Legislature is not concerned about the inhumane conditions created by overcrowding, they're only concerned about the federal court ordering them to do something. The Legislature wouldn't care if you jammed ten people in every cell. If you took away the heat in the winter time, that is of no concern to the Legislature. And that's not the approach. So what I'm looking at, in saying don't build any of the Quonset huts, is to force a crisis where the federal court will look at what Nebraska has done. And when that is done and political pressure is brought into play, I'm hoping it will cause some of the members in this Legislature to stop voting for these insane crime bills that create new crimes, that add harsher punishments to existing crimes, then require people to serve longer sentences, when none of that attacks the problem of crime. If you have unemployment or underemployment, you have lack of access to medical care, you don't have adequate housing, you don't have education. These things lead to what is called antisocial conduct or crime. And every one of these things that any of us can mention is treatable. We can do things, through the expenditure of money and the formulation of programs, to address everyone. And we never will have an ideal situation where every person is going to comply with every law all the