

York Times and it was reprinted, perhaps in part, by the World-Herald on February 22 of this year and it's datelined Newton, Iowa: "In this small city surrounded by corn fields, nothing but Sunday morning church bells ever made much noise and the jail sat three-quarters empty most of the time and then, about a year or so ago, things started to go haywire. Crime began to soar, coupled with an outbreak of irrational behavior. A man with a spotless record pulled a string of burglaries. Some parents suddenly became so neglectful that their children were taken away. A man fled from his workplace to get a gun, terrified that helicopters were coming after him. Motorists in routine traffic stops greeted the police with psychotic tirades. Prosecutors linked all these cases and many more in this city of 15,000 people to the influx of the drug methamphetamine and its frequent side effects of paranoia and violent behavior. Then I'm skipping down a couple of paragraph. "Meth" seems to have taken control of these people, said Steve Johnson (phonetic), the prosecutor here in Jasper County, where the 24-bed jail is overflowing and 90 percent of the inmates have a problem with the drug. It's scary stuff. We're pretty frustrated and don't know exactly what to do to get it under control. The drug, also known as crank or ice, is a stimulant that is swallowed, snorted or injected. It is much cheaper than cocaine and its high lasts longer, the authorities say. This is the most malignant, addictive drug known to mankind, said Dr. Michael Abram (phonetic) of Broadlawn (phonetic) Medical Center in Des Moines, where more patients were admitted during the past year for abuse of methamphetamine than for alcoholism. It is often...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ..used by blue collar workers who feel under pressure to perform at a fast pace for long periods and at first it works. It turns you into 'wonder person.' You can do everything for awhile. Crack, wicked as it is, cannot compare to the destructive power of methamphetamine, Dr. Abram (phonetic) said. Because of its molecular structure, methamphetamine is more stimulating to the brain than any other drug." And I'll continue on my next opportunity.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wehrbein.