

April 1, 1996

LB 1189

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: The National Center for Policy Analysis is based out of Dallas, and they have done studies, oh, for a number of years, not only in crime, but in other areas.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do they...do they work with people who build prisons?

SENATOR JENSEN: I don't know that they do, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you know that they don't?

SENATOR JENSEN: I don't know that they do or they don't, no, I do not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And you said that figure...that figure started out at 49,000, and they built prisons to accommodate 170 something or million...

SENATOR JENSEN: This is Texas did this, the state of Texas did this.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Um-huh. Is that when it went from 49,000 to 100...over 170,000?

SENATOR JENSEN: Hundred and fifty thousand.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Hundred fifty thousand, and you say that person has said that now they have fewer of these kind of crimes, which would mean they have fewer trials, less money spent in the criminal justice system, the need for fewer police officers, and the concomitant results from what you just described to us? Is that what that report also said?

SENATOR JENSEN: It said that they now have the lowest rate of serious crime since 1973. Now we're talking about the state of Texas only.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now what were the...what are the figures for...what do you consider serious crimes? What do they, in your article, consider serious crimes?