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FLOOR DEBATE

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body. I've been listening to the debate this morning and listening to Senator Chambers, and I listened to Senator Chambers very closely yesterday. And he had some real good points in his comments. How do we solve this problem? And I would like to kind of maybe engage in a little conversation with Senator Chambers, if he'd be willing this morning.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, are you available for conversation with Senator Stuthman?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, Mr. President.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Senator Chambers, yesterday you mentioned in your conversation that, you know, we need to find something, some way to solve the problem. And the problem is the addictions to methamphetamine. Have you got some kind of an idea what direction should we be going, or how can we accomplish this? And I truly agree. This is what we've got to do. We've got to solve that problem.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The first thing...and if I had a solution, I would lay it on the table. There has to be a line drawn between dealers, sellers I'm speaking of, and those who are addicts. There are some addicts who will just purchase the drug; others will try to manufacture it; but nevertheless, that line should be drawn. If you're going to make it a crime to possess this drug and distribute it, whether you're an addict or a dealer, and people are sent to prison, there should be some kind of treatment available where you're going to lock these people up. There currently are many drug offenses that put people in prison. There's a requirement in the law that they be given this treatment. The treatment is not there. There are requirements that before a person can be considered for parole, these programs have to be completed. If the program is not available, the person is willing to take it, but because of the unavailability of the program, that individual continues to stay in prison, when he or she is eligible to be paroled, bitterness continues to grow. When you put people out on the street and all you've done is try to punish them and they have an addiction, then I think you're sending people out there to go right back to what they were doing, perhaps with a vengeance.