

so-called mandatory sentences was done for the reason that I stated earlier. We have periods of public hysteria. When politicians want to outdo each other in showing how tough they are on crime as they call it. When the fad passes the repercussions continue to be felt. There will be an increase in the number of people locked away for those long sentences. Then some of the senators will say, well, there ought to be some way to mitigate that because we are facing overcrowding in the prisons. That happens because we make ill-advised changes in the law. When we have some bills talking about prerogatives of judges, and I've expressed my lack of confidence in some judges. Others will argue that you have to have confidence in them. Well, if that is to be the philosophy and we have laid out a system of classifying crimes by virtue of the punishment attached, that is the system which ought not to be tinkered with and tampered with because it throws things out of kilter. When you pick a favorite offense because it is politically popular to be opposed to that one, you place a mandatory minimum on it. Although I fight these things, it is obvious I haven't been successful because there are some mandatory minimums in the statute. But then you're faced with a set of circumstances where a crime that is deemed of more severity does not have a mandatory minimum. So it creates the situation where you're saying a crime that you have classified as being more serious is not going to be punished as severely as one which is less serious and that's what happens when a lower grade of crime has a higher mandatory minimum than a higher grade of the crime. That doesn't make sense, but you're going to have that when people come down here and don't understand the system and don't care about the system but rather want to make political points and allow the Attorney General to have himself a press conference. I saw him on one press conference. Senator Haberman, these local yokels who are in the media are real nice to the Attorney General but when some real pros were questioning him for a national program, he hit the ceiling. He exploded. I don't know if he used profanity and they cut it off but he was angry enough to do that. I've answered the question. I told you. Now let's do something else. And the pros just sat back and said, that's a rap and that's how the whole nation sees the Attorney General of Nebraska. But these local yokels, kind of timid, kind of scary, not being informed on the subjects about which they ask the questions, they let him pontificate, use people and exploit victims while pretending to care so much about them and get away with in a manner of speaking, murder. I do have something to say about what happens on the floor of the