

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, yeah, thank you. Members of the Legislature, again I am offering an amendment which is designed to bring some rationality to our sentencing structure. Even though I am trying to do this in three sta...two stages, I am going to explain to you what it is I'm trying to do. If you look at line 18, it talks about a Class II felony. At line 15, it talks about a Class ID felony, which is a higher grade of crime. Then when you get to line 13, moving up the scale, it talks about a Class IC felony. All three of these, even though they are differing grades of felony, have the same maximum which is fifty years. So if you commit the lesser...the least grade, since there are three of them I will say least, rather, Senator Kristensen, than "lessest," but, Senator Witek, since I am a genius, I think I'm privileged again to create words if I find it necessary to do that. The Class ID felony is the "lessest" of the three to which I'm referring, the "lessest" in seriousness. So what I am saying is that the maximum for this "lessest" of the three should be thirty years, not that I agree with the severity, but that would be thirty. When you move up to the lesser, which would be the Class IC, the maximum...or ID, the maximum would be forty. Then I would leave the Class IC at fifty. So here is what the range would be if the two amendments I have up there would be adopted. In line 18, for a Class II felony, which is the "lessest," it would be one to thirty. When you move up to the lesser, which is Class ID, that would be three to forty. Then the Class IC would be five to fifty. There should be something to distinguish these offenses from each other. As I was talking to Senator Witek before I began to discuss these, probably only the people who really are involved in crime as a way of living will calculate based on the punishment what they are likely to commit in the way of an act, saying, well, I will commit this because, if they get me and I get the maximum, I'll only get thirty. If I do the other, and I get the maximum, I would get fifty. In reality, most people have no idea what the punishment for an offense is going to be. In the interest of restoring some kind of logic to the sentencing structure, I am saying that since we have given three different classifications to these felonies, there should be three distinct and different punishments. So the maximum for the lowest grade would be thirty. The maximum for the next higher grade would be forty. The maximum for the one at the top would be fifty. I think that is reasonable in terms of restoring logic, although when you look at the sentencing structure, there may not be a rational basis for that wide a