

graphically demonstrated that that is not practical and it's not going to be done. But when I see like this and it jumps out at me, I feel an obligation to do something about it. I had made an agreement with these people that I would not try to make their activity illegal and I'm going to stick to that. I had told them if I stopped the bill, it meant that they would have one year of unregulated activity, so, by allowing it to go on through, if that's what the body's choice is, they still have that one year. Nothing is different as far as what my move was going to be. And I am of a mind to come in, if the Legislature passes this bill, or if it doesn't, to make this activity illegal. We continue to allow these kind of fringe operations to spring up which encourage people who are up against it to do things that can get them in more trouble. Pawn shops are legalized fencing operations. Some of you don't know how some of these operate. They open up, they have a bunch of thieves that they work with. The thief will steal your VCR, sell it to this guy for \$10, he will put on that a statement that says he paid \$150 for it, then when you come to redeem it, you've got to pay that \$150 for that which is yours and he only paid the thief \$15. And because the pawn brokers have political clout, efforts that I have made in the past to regulate them...I wanted to run them out of business, they have been able to avoid having that done. So when you are aware of a segment of the society...and it's not just dirt poor people now, we're talking in this bill about people who've got jobs. With pawn shops, there are more and more people with jobs having to go to them and as a result they're opening in what used to be considered the more exclusive areas of the city. But they are legalized fencing operations. This is legalizing loansharking. We are taking people who obviously are in a very bad way financially but they have some money coming in. They don't have enough money, as it is, to cover themselves from one paycheck to the other, so we're going to let these vultures who have studied this...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...situation and recognize they have walking corpses, almost dead but not quite dead but too weak to defend themselves so they can be feasted on as if they're total corpses, making an industry off the misery and misfortune of people and the numbers and groups are going to expand who are in this category. And I think it's a mistake for the Legislature affirmatively, which is what we're saying, we're not really just regulating, this is a bill to obtain affirmative approval by the