

May 15, 1975

SENATOR SYAS: Well I think so, but of course the majority of the committee did not.

SENATOR DICKINSON: They didn't think it liberalized their ...

SENATOR SYAS: Well I don't suppose they did. I don't know. They'll have to answer ... let me back up just a little bit. I don't know what they were thinking. Frankly I only know what I was thinking.

SENATOR DICKINSON: OK, thank you Senator Syas. I'd like to respond to some other members. I'm sure a lot of us don't really understand what's behind this. We don't have the knowledge that some of you do. Do you consider this as being ... as liberalizing the penalties that have been meated out for those who have been convicted of a crime?

SENATOR SAVAGE: Who are you asking that question of?

SENATOR DICKINSON: Any member of the committee that heard the testimony and have been active in drafting the bill.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Let me answer that.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Senator Luedtke.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Mr. President, this is absolutely not permissive nor lenient. I think Senator Anderson mentioned to you that there's a possibility of a person having, if he doesn't behave himself in the institution, that he's going to have to jam his time. That means he's going to have to serve every last day that the judge has sentenced him to that institution for. The inmates who served on this group who sat down to work out the details stated that they would, because of the uncertainty existing under the Mandatory Parole Act of 1969, would rather serve more time. That is possible, Senator Dickinson, under this act; that they can serve more time under this change than they could under the other one. The only difference is that now, if this act is passed, there will be a certainty as to the time served. When a judge sentences a man he will know when he enters that institution, if he behaves himself, keeps his nose clean he'll know when he's going to get out. He'll know for his families sake. There have been families that have been broken up because wives didn't know when husbands were coming home. There have been jobs lost because employers didn't know when the person could be expected to come back. These things have made for discipline problems within the institution. I would say not only is it not lenient and permissive, it certainly is most practical from a standpoint of running an institution of this kind where you have to deal with keeping people in custody and saying to them when will you return.