

we would want the news media to report very accurately that we merely stand accused, not convicted. So when Senator Schmit's chart gives some of the costs such as arrest, pretrial and trial, in a lot of those cases there will be an acquittal, there will be a dismissal which means the person was brought into the system without sufficient evidence to justify that person being there. So these costs that are given...it says total amount spent on criminals, well, a lot of the people who incur these costs are not criminals. They haven't been convicted and never will be convicted. So I think we have to be a little more precise in how we discuss these issues, and I don't think it is necessary to have a chart like this to show how much money is spent to protect the rights of American citizens who have been brought before the bar of justice by the state, which has an unlimited source of funds, prosecutors and other means to convict that citizen. When we talk about court appointed lawyers, we are not talking about in most cases those lawyers who have experience and capability. Public defenders, often because of their caseload, will try to get the person accused to plead guilty even knowing that the person is not guilty. A public defender talked to me about an individual who was charged with a crime and he said, Ernie, I told him he ought to plead guilty because you know what he looks like. He has got scars on himself. He has had trouble before and he looks like what the jury will consider a criminal to be and they are going to convict him no matter what kind of case I bring, so I have told him to plead guilty even though I believe he is innocent. That is the kind of reality that is a part of this system. I am sure that a lot of people who wind up in the Penitentiary and the jails of this state would be more than willing not to spend as much time **there** soaking up the funds if the judges would cut the amount of the sentence. I say that to say this. All of those kind of matters ought to be dropped out of this discussion and we ought to look at the Board and what it does on its merits. Either we believe that victims are entitled to some kind of compensation, and let me not use the term "compensation", some kind of assistance from the state when they have done nothing to bring the problem on themselves that they find themselves confronted with. Either we believe that or we don't.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Half a minute, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If we believe it, we ought to put out the money to back up the program. If we don't believe it, we should abolish the Board and not trick people into