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(Start Belt #12)

L.B. 302, comprehensive community mental health, alcohol and drugs, and I think once this bill is brought on the floor and adequately funded we will not only then be addressing ourselves to law enforcement, we will be addressing ourselves to treatment and education or whatever else can be done in the communities along with law enforcement to help eradicate the worst single problem that we have in the State.

SPEAKER: Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: First, I want to answer Senator Kennedy. The series of bills that Senator Schmit has, one of the most important ones is that we have legal aid, parties to the Highway Patrol and a sufficient amount in number to see; one, that these arrests are made properly because these people will travel with these undercover men and with the Highway Patrol. They will also supplement the County Attorney in the prosecution to the extent they will permit it. These are the things that we're trying to correct and what you say is true. Many of these cases are dismissed because they have been improperly conducted. The evidence has not been properly correlated and the court just can't convict the man. Now, let's look at Senator Mahoney. This is one I'm disagreeing with it, I don't understand his application of fault in this, but we have found out by the amount of men we have now, you go back for a day and a month and a year, you'll find we're flushing these people out and this thing has been caused by those who are now available in insufficient number to spend enough time and set these deals up so we catch these people. I don't care how much it costs, whether the Budget Commission lives or dies. And if you went to the Budget Committee, you wouldn't get anything like this. As Senator Whitney has said and he did say it in the paper, he says, if you veto these two bills, I'll get you 5 votes. Now, if I'd said that, you'd all understood it; but Senator Whitney's saying it is completely unacceptable. I am a wheeler and dealer and he's not. He's completely out of character and he doesn't know how to operate in that field, and he ought to stay out of it. Now this is highly necessary, go into Norfolk, go into Scottsbluff, go into Lincoln and go into Omaha and who's bringing these things out? It's the people beginning to qualify and flush them out. This thing is much deeper than anybody anticipates. The Judiciary Committee spent days and weeks and months and years in the study of this thing and I think for, as a matter of a general statement, we're all 100% back of what Senator Schmit's doing and I hope you would pass all of these bills. They're not going on forever and a day. If we come back here next January, if they're too rich for the blood of you or the taxpayer, cut them down. This is not going to last forever. When we have corraled and when we have the thing under control, then we can stabilize the amount of men and the amount of money and the amount of lawyers and the amount invested but we've got this thing just starting on the run. Now I think Senator Schmit should be commended and certainly applauded for the area and it hasn't been easy and these are a series of bills that ought to be passed.

SPEAKER: The Chair would observe that, it has been called to my attention that we should adjourn. If anybody presses that, I have to take it. However, on the board here to speak are Senators Whitney and Kelly, at which time then Senator Schmit would close and I, the Chair would observe that it might be best not to carry this over another day. Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: I just first want to ask Senator Carpenter, would you deny that the Governor has 5 votes in this Legislature? By virtue of the fact that he can veto a bill and it takes 5 votes in this Legislature to override, 4 extra votes to override his veto?

SENATOR CARPENTER: I can only speak for myself. He never approached me but I am always open to suggestions.