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think that it diminishes the personal responsibility of the person who commits an act?

SENATOR NICHOL: No I don't. And, since we are dealing in problems of the mind this is very difficult. It is easy for a layman to sit back and say something should be done but when the laymen get into making the laws we must rely on psychiatrists and psychologists and people who are more knowledgeable theoretically at least.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay but here you do not feel that mental disorder diminishes the responsibility of the person committing the act. Why then have a regional center and treat any of these people? Why not just convict them all and disregard the mental disorder, handle them as criminals who have total capability for what they do and forget about treatment since mental disorder does not diminish responsibility?

SENATOR NICHOL: Well of course many years ago this was the way they were all handled, as common criminals, it came along sometime several years ago when society and this body thought that something further should be done for these people and to protect themselves from themselves and protect society from those kind of people so that such programs were set up where they were provided mental treatment as well as just incarceration, which of course doesn't help much.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: One other question. When they say protect one of these sex offenders from himself or herself, how could one of these people hurt himself or herself? I've never seen that discussed in the paper or anywhere else.

SENATOR NICHOL: Well of course we use this term thinking that people may have mental disorders and in some way harm themselves. In my opinion they could not harm themselves greatly in this particular act. Where a person is suicidal if that goes along with it, of course they could, but I don't think we are talking about....

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you.....

SENATOR NICHOL:those kind of people.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:....and not to cut you off but my time is almost gone. Members of the Legislature, I say again the amendment that I am offering, I offer in all seriousness. It may surprise you somewhat that I would offer it and it would shock me a great deal if the conservatives in the body