

I have observed some ways that the parole board has been very, very arbitrary. Their aim should be to get people out of prison as quickly as possible and keep them out. There is a man who had been paroled. He was supposed to get a full-time job. He could not get a job. He had not committed any other violation of the law or of the conditions of parole, but he couldn't find a job so in desperation he said he was a house husband. His full-time occupation was taking care of the home and the parole board, even though the man had done nothing else in the way of a violation, revoked his parole and he is back in prison now taking up however many thousand dollars a year it takes to keep somebody in prison. That's the basis on which the parole board acts and I think it is very arbitrary. Now you're giving them an additional club to hold over people's head.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You can buy your way out of prison, otherwise you sweat it out. It is not a good policy decision and there have been reasons of the kind that I am mentioning that it is not a condition of parole to say that you should have money or means to pay these claims. But if you're talking about probation, even then the wealthy shouldn't be given a leg up, but there is a trade off. There is an incentive. When you have been sent to prison, the punishment for the crime, the extraction of time from your life is what you are paying from the wrong that you did and the criminal law seeks to punish an offense committed against the state, not the enrichment of the individual is a criminal law ever concerned about. You have the civil law to seek damages by the injured against the one who committed the injury. The criminal law is designed to punish an offense against the state. That is why if Senator Pirsch shoots me or I shoot Senator Pirsch, it is not Senator Pirsch's family versus Chambers. It is the State of Nebraska versus Chambers. So there are certain types of conduct made unlawful by the law. Those...

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...are criminal acts.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Senator Landis. I'm sorry, Senator Chambers.