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in state facilities were not being sufficiently handled under the general assaults statute. It was stated by state and county correctional officers that specific statutes were necessary mandating consecutive sentencing. Now this amendment also adds stiffening of penalties for assault on state and county correctional officers and includes inmates who are assaulted. Added also in this amendment are sections regarding an assault on a peace officer in general when acting in an official capacity. These provisions are similar to statutes which were eliminated again in the 1978 criminal code revision whether by accident or design I have no knowledge. And why should we return these stricken statutes now? A report by the Crime Commission published in 1981 is being distributed or should be distributed to your desk already and I hope that you will have an opportunity to look through that. Through the operation of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, the Crime Commission became aware of a disturbing increase in the number of assaults on officers during the last three years. I checked that out. The criminal code was revised in '78. The disturbing increase in the number of assaults on officers rose during the last three years. Preliminary UCI statistics showed an increase of 23 percent in assaults from 1979 to 1980 and 77 percent from '78 to '80. For the first three quarters of '80 the Lincoln Police Department received a 79 percent increase in assaults on officers and a 71 percent increase was reported by the Omaha Police Division. In October of 1980 the commission initiated a study to gather more information about the assaults. The study gathered information on 586 assaults on officers and provided the following information. Approximately one-third of the assaults were serious enough to warrant medical services. Agencies reported that 29 percent of the officers assaulted received medical attention. Now assaults are costly to local governments. Law enforcement agencies responding to the survey lost 5,946 man hours at a cost of \$46,434 due to assaults during that three year period. Assaulting an officer or resisting arrest once considered a serious crime is now most often considered a lesser offense. Sixty-four percent of the assaults in the study were requested by the law enforcement agency to be filed as misdemeanors, and when they requested that a felony complaint be filed, felony charges were only filed in 59 percent of the cases. Together there were 532 requests for felony and misdemeanor complaints for assaulting an officer or resisting arrest. Seventy-eight percent of the offenders ended up in court for these offenses and 84 percent of those were found guilty. It is clear that the rate of assaults on law enforcement officers has increased in the last three years while the rate of arrests in Nebraska has decreased.

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