

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's times like this when you realize that reinstating a law which has been on our books for years is what I am trying to do. It makes a good public platform for some Senators to bring charges against all of the liars and the miscreants in the law enforcement system. It is too bad...I hoped that you could see through the smoke, and again I repeat, Senator Chambers called this mandatory sentencing. This is not mandatory sentencing. The original bill said only if a sentence is given of whatever length the judge determines, that it be additional, it not be nonexistent by the fact that there isn't any punishment given at all. Senator Johnson said that 80 percent of our institutions are nonviolent, and I say great and I support work release, I support restitution. I support getting those people out of the penitentiary that do not belong there. But we are talking about assaulters. We are talking about people who are violent, and we are talking about law that has been instituted in Nebraska for years and years and you who were here in 1978 I wonder if you read that criminal code completely through. Did you know...did you read every word, did you know every part that was eliminated from our law at that time? The Judiciary Committee has been constantly fixing up the criminal code revision of 1978 because of flaws and errors and omissions. Now I have only been here for three years, this is my fourth term, but I know on those thick bills very, very few have read them completely through and know...and who can compare them even to what was omitted? I tell you that this is nothing new. We have changed the language to go with our new wording of penalties but it is essentially the same for peace officers performing their duties. And the other has had a public hearing, the mandatory consecutive sentencing and no time given, that has had a public hearing, and at that time it was discovered it was a space problem. Now tell me who else is going to come out and testify on that. This not only has had a public hearing, this has had a public trial during the years that it was in our law in the State of Nebraska. It was taken out in 1978 and since then according to the Nebraska Crime Commission they have been alarmed at the rate of assaults on officers, law enforcement officers, peace officers who are doing their duty since this law that we are talking about was eliminated. I am sure that Senator Higgins who had some suggestions, if the bill drafter....and I apologize that I did not catch the bill drafter's error, will be amendments on Select File, then so be it. By Select File you will have had an even better opportunity to know and to compare this and I can give you the sections of law that were repealed in 1978 that these reinstate. There is nothing new about this at all except the mandatory consecutive sentencing and no