

expound upon that a bit because it seems to me just a few years back there were a group of people from the Lexington area that were very concerned about sexual assaults, and the laws here in the State of Nebraska, and they came to their representative, Senator Herb Duis of Gothenburg, and they offered him proposals both statutory and constitutional amendments to deal with the issue of making sexual assault a nonbailable offense. Now, Senator Chambers, if my memory serves me correctly, was one of those that fought this proposal and he explained that it would not work, it cannot work. Now the bill that would have dealt with this issue statutorily was not successful, but as you recall the bill that dealt with it constitutionally was placed on the ballot, it was adopted by the citizens of the State of Nebraska. It has been before the United States Supreme Court and they, ladies and gentlemen, have vindicated the so-called ignorance of the citizens of the State of Nebraska. And I think that this is just one example that I could remember that would give credence to what I am attempting to say here with LB 870. Now Senator Chambers referred to the overcrowding of jails, the prisons, the Penitentiaries, but let's remember we are dealing with first offense first. Let's take first things first. And we are talking about 48 hours, and my argument is that for first offenders if such a penalty were prescribed that this may eliminate subsequent problems which could create subsequent jailings which in the long run for longer terms could contribute to overcrowding and having to build larger facilities. But I think that that argument is rather invalid with what we are attempting to do on the first offense. And it is my contention that if this bill were enacted into law, that it is going to be a tremendous deterrent. Let me read to you from a letter that I received from one of Senator Koch's constituents. He says, "This is to support your effort to write a strict drunk driving law. It is about time a progressive country like ours took strong steps to remove these people from killer automobiles. Our papers are full of the monumental tragedies brought about by drunken killers, and if they killed in the bars we would take them out of circulation, yet we are apologetic when they kill an innocent carload of people. Now this is the important point. I drink and I have driven while drunk. I would never do that if I knew there were strong penalties. Let's enact a law in our country to stop this carnage." And that comes from an individual, ladies and gentlemen, that says that he himself is a drinker. But if we had a law such as this, he would not be drinking, driving and subjecting others to possible injury and death. So, therefore, I would rise in opposition to Senator Chambers' motion to indefinitely