

female. There are male prostitutes in Omaha and they operate not too far from the Omaha Police Division and not too far from the Douglas County Correctional Center, but since there are not a lot of businessmen down there raising a stink, nobody seems to be concerned about that. So it is clear that prostitution, as such, is not what is being attacked in this bill, but only certain parties who participate. You all may have followed the news accounts recently of the number of inmates who have to be released at the state level because of overcrowding. I decided that I would call the Douglas County Correctional Center and see if there is a problem existing right now in terms of overcrowding where females are concerned. They have 44 beds for females at the correctional center. Right now there are 61 women in custody, 44 beds, 61 in custody. To accommodate these women, the dayroom area is being used and they are double bunking them. There are still some who have been described as residuals from the racing season who are being held for prostitution. Although there is much discussion about how much good Ak-Sar-Ben does for the city, nobody seems to mention the fact that prostitutes follow the races, that when the races are in town, the prostitutes are here in greater numbers, but nobody wants to make the tie-in to the race track that is obviously there. There will be an influx of these persons when the racing season comes. If they are sentenced to jail, there will be increased overcrowding, but there is something that I think should be brought to your attention that I didn't touch on last time. When a man is arrested in connection with prostitution, he gets the fine. When the woman is arrested, she goes to jail. When they argue for this kind of legislation, they argue only in terms of putting these women in jail, getting these women off the street, but the men who are the customers will pay a fine and be released. So it is clear that the bill is going to continue to entrench the kind of gender discrimination that exists right now in the administration of the existing ordinance and the existing state law. I think it is not proper for the Legislature, and because of the subject being discussed I hate to use the term "fair", but I will. It is not fair to enact a state law when we know in advance that it is going to be applied in a discriminatory fashion. Many laws, which on their face might be constitutional, are declared to be unconstitutional in their operation, and we know that important businessmen in Omaha are not going to be put in jail for prostitution. There is a city attorney in one of the suburban cities near Omaha fighting right now to try to have some additional money paid to him because I think he had to give up his job as city attorney