

follow up on investigations and to keep drug pushers under constant pressure. Part of that I tried to address by the introduction of a bill that would allow a million dollars worth of overtime for highway patrol individuals, officers. I believe you have to do that. If you'll read the article in the World-Herald, you will note the tremendous amount of hours that were expended by officers on one single case. You can hire additional officers, and maybe that has to be done also, the Omaha Police Department has tried to do that, but that...but unless you provide some flexibility to existing state troopers and give them some ability to function as they see fit, you're not going to really be making a major effort. I used to, from time to time, speed as I drove between here and Bellwood. I finally gave it up, for the most part, because I found out I couldn't get away with it. There's going to be an officer out there and he's going to stop me. And after being stopped a number of times I decided it's best to drive at 55 and try to get by. You have to have the same persistent presence in this area. They have to know they can't get away with it. This body has got to let the Appropriations Committee and the Governor know that we are serious enough about this problem that we are willing to give to the only agency we have direct control over, that is the Highway Patrol, additional resources to assist local law enforcement agencies in the battle on drugs. I suggested that they trade off the old helicopter and buy a new one. The old bird has about 10 years and 3,000 hours on it. I see the Appropriations Committee authorized \$78,000 to update the helicopter. Not a bad idea, it ought to be done. We ought to also buy another one, we ought to provide the Highway Patrol with another piece of that kind of equipment. There are those who say we can't afford the \$900,000. At \$40,000 a year to keep an individual in the Penitentiary, that's 25 people, 25 people per year. Even at my advanced age I can take that piece of equipment and I can discourage that many people from getting into that business to the point where they're going to be imprisoned. We are committed, apparently, to build a \$10 million...to make it a \$10 million new investment in penal complexes, we are committed to longer and tougher sentencing. What we ought to be committed to is to try to stop the individual from getting into the kind of trouble that puts them in the Penitentiary. Ladies and gentlemen, we read about the "Crips" and the "Bloods". The youngsters that I know, many of them, who have gotten into the drug habit are not members of the "Crips" and the "Bloods", they are the neighbor's kids, they are sometimes our own children, they are kids who we'd like to think