

the early 1970's when this Legislature passed a series of bills that I believe were instrumental in giving the Nebraska law enforcement and judicial system the tools they needed to curtail the traffic in drugs. But unfortunately as I recall, Senator Exon, then Governor Exon, he vetoed all six of those bills. We did override the bills, but I will paraphrase one of his remarks in the veto message and he said something to the effect, takes more than just money to solve the problem and he was right, he was right. I didn't agree with him at the time, but I can tell you that he was right because we passed those bills and we did some things, we put some money in the till but we did not take the additional step of getting the people we needed in those areas to resolve the problem. We made some progress but not very much. Now 15, 16 years later it has become popular to be against the drug traffic. Ernie, we were just a long ways ahead of our time. We tried to do something, but no one would listen. Kind of interesting that last session I introduced a couple of bills to provide for a million dollars of overtime for the highway patrol so that they could have men on duty, not have to jerk them off and tell some drug dealer come back tomorrow morning at eight o'clock, that we're going off duty now at five, come back at eight o'clock and I'll start my surveillance again. The Appropriations Committee did put \$250,000 in that program. This year that million dollars is one of the Governor's mainstays of the anti-drug program. I also had a bill last year to provide money for a helicopter. That didn't make it out of committee. I have introduced that bill again this year. It so happens that I believe that could also be an effective instrument and that it could save enough money in some areas to pay for itself very rapidly. We can do whatever we want to do in this body relative to judges' salaries, but it doesn't make any difference if you pay an individual 100,000, 50,000, 25,000 if you don't have the kind of people who have the dedication and the intellect and the desire and the fire in their belly to enforce the law and do the job, we're going to have problems, we're going to have problems. We can build more penitentiaries. You know we can spend another 14 million bucks to build more penitentiaries and we can fill it up in a week, we can fill it up in a week. We demand tougher sentences, longer sentences, lock them all up, throw away the key and say, my gosh, we don't have enough room, got to do something about it. What you need is a judge on the bench who has got the intelligence and the dedication to find out who needs to be locked up and who doesn't need to be locked up, the judge who knows who can be a likely candidate for probation and who isn't, a judge who understands