

within the state our ability to link things together and it would definitely speed up that fingerprinting process, but at some point I think the technology is going to be there to link state to state. To assume that every fingerprint you're going to want is from an in-state resident might be a little naive I think given the nature of the crime that we're facing today. So I think this is something we can wait a year and maybe even make a better buy than we're going to make if we made it today and that is a significant sum of money that I would suggest that can wait and would allow us to take care of some of these other very pressing human needs, and let me just remind you one more time, there's a lot of money in this bill this year for prison construction. There's a lot of money in here for law enforcement. In the State Patrol budget the other item that, frankly, the committee picked as being more important was overtime payments for the State Patrol. I think that's a better choice in terms of priorities and so I would ask you to reject for this year the Goodrich amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Takes a lot of nerve to stand up here in between Appropriations Committee members. I do have to support Senator Goodrich, and having served in Judiciary, time and time again we've tried to pass various laws and tried to help the entire system, law enforcement system and this was one thing that was brought to us any number of times that would certainly help and would certainly aid. It would move Nebraska ahead along with a number of the other states. I certainly agree. I can't go over the bill any better than Senator Goodrich. I know that this is a lot of money and a lot of funding and I recognize that we have put money into prisons and so on. I think if you would ask the...all of the law enforcement people that, as I'm saying, the police, the drug, the safety patrol, the Sheriffs' Association and so on and so forth. You know, we have a little bill chugging along the line. It moved very smoothly and very rapidly the other day that increases a retirement that I call very good, long before the increase came along on the line, a retirement at very early age. I think the comments were made just a little bit of help along the line, it's a big help along the line and I guess that we do have to set our priorities, but I do know that this is one that the law enforcement officers, the highway patrol, all of them, are certainly asking for and I do support it, but as in the end we will have to each set our own priorities. Thank you.