

March 22, 1990

LB 1246  
LR 304, 308

committed a crime. We were to find out if the institutions of government had worked. Sadly, I have drawn the conclusion that the institutions have not worked as they should have. The committee now has an even greater responsibility, I believe, and that is to find out why they did not work. If, in fact, they did not work, was any individual or group of individuals responsible for the fact the system did not work? There are many persons incarcerated today in Nebraska penal institutions for various crimes. You will find that in most instances the system worked with dispatch. It should work the same for all persons, regardless of who, what position, or any other factor. The public has a right to expect that. The public, I believe, is satisfied with the work of this Legislature. The public knows that this Legislature has acted in the public interest. I believe the public will respond accordingly. I am concerned, and it has been expressed on this floor many times, that if prosecutions do not result, that there may be deep distrust of government by the general public. We are concerned that there not be, and we are well aware of the fact that we can carry the role of character assassins. We've been very careful about that. I would hope that the work of the committee will be judged in finality as being for the good of the citizens of this state, and that the other individuals of those other institutions which have responsibilities to carry out will not be found wanting. Ladies and gentlemen, it is necessary, it is necessary indeed that they not be found wanting. And, if it turns out to be less than what we expect, there will be, I'm sure, certain questions to be answered. I hope that the committee...that the Legislature will vote affirmatively on this bill, and that it will become law so that it might be some small degree of assistance for prosecutors in their responsibilities, but also that it will reassure the public that we are concerned that no perpetrator of a crime shall go free because this Legislature did not do its very best to make certain that prosecution could take place. We ought to make this state as safe as possible for the children of this state, because if it is not safe for the children of this state and those who have no one else to protect them, then it is not safe for anyone. I ask you to support the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and I do sign LR 304, LR 308. Also, Senator Coordsen is announcing some guests in our south balcony. We have 16 third and fourth graders from Milligan with their teacher. Would you