

reward them for what they've done to society. It's easy to point out, in the World-Herald, or all the papers, that violent crime rose 70 percent in the State of Nebraska last year, violent crime in Omaha rose 69 percent. And in the mid eighties there were certain states, about ten of them, matter of fact, that stiffened their penalties, and by doing that they saw a reduction in crime. It does work. I don't think now is the time to start rewarding offenders for their crimes. Therefore, I think it just flies in the face of what has happened at the elections, also by even the Governor's own stand, that we need to send a message that we will not tolerate the criminal activity going on here in Nebraska. In the recent election I knocked on 7,800 doors, stood on the front porches with many people and they were saying they don't want half-time, that they want full-time for the offenders that are committing crimes against the community. I even knocked on one door when a young police officer came, and after visiting he said that he had recently come from a sentencing of a young man, and it was a light sentence. And he overheard the young man, as he was leaving the courtroom and visiting with the attorney, and the attorney says, well, short and sweet, back on the street. When are we going to learn? When are we going to provide for our citizens? Really, the number one role of government is to provide safety and security for its citizens. It is the number one role, it is above schools, it is above education, it is above health care, roads. Let us provide that safety and security for its citizens, let us not reward criminals by giving them half-time on crimes that they have committed against its citizens. I urge the body to vote against this LB 234.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Schrock, on 234.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Madam Chairman, just like to speak briefly to this. Last summer I read in the Kearney Daily Hub an ad that said, what state senator voted for good time which releases prisoners early if they behave "themselves", what state senator voted for that bill, and I forget the name of the bill but I think I was here when the bill was discussed and voted on. I did not vote for that, but the answer was Senator Jim Cudaback and then it said, it's time for a change, vote for Glade Smith. Well obviously, Jim prevailed. But I think of all the negative ads that were run against Senator Cudaback last summer, this one bothered him the most, so I would caution the body that if you vote for this, there may be repercussions. I understand the