

Senator Witek is absolutely correct, we looked at this issue then. As I mentioned when I opened today, I made a mistake in drafting and it's...I made a mistake in drafting. What I said on the floor and what I explained to you then was what we were trying to accomplish now, now that I have drafted it correctly, and that is, let me go back to the Judiciary Committee, I refer to LB 816 passed in a few years prior and then it said that the bill did not do, did not change the good time provisions for people incarcerated in county jails. What LB 113 would do is to extend that same good time provision to county jails, equal credit for time served for good time. That's what we were trying to do then. On the floor I said the same thing in my opening. This was on January 20, '93, excuse me, this is the Judiciary Committee statement, that was the floor language. I said LB 113 seeks to close that gap to allow the same type of one for one good time as is allowed in the prison system. It passed that year with four negative votes. We now have apparently a lot more negative votes when now what we're trying to do is what I said I was trying to do the first time and I screwed up. I apologize for doing that, but now it has become a heck of a lot more controversial, apparently, because I keep hearing that people have spoken on the toughness on crime issue. What people want is to be safe. How they arrive at that, they're coming to us to try to come up with those decisions. But the question has to also become, who are they becoming safe from? When we talk about building prisons, Senator Witek said she wants to change the good time. She can get a bill out of that committee. I'll vote a bill out of that committee if she comes in with the appropriations bill to build the prisons, and if she comes in with the tax increase bill to fund those prisons, or specifically says whose program she's going to cut. People, we have to spend the money to build these prisons. The counties have to assess property taxes to pay for the corrections, these aren't freebies. People want to be protected. But I hear an awful lot of squawking about us taking things out of their pocketbooks, us, the state government, property taxes is what's big in my district. People are complaining about property taxes, but we don't seem to care. The people that testified in favor of this included the Lancaster County Corrections that said we're crowded, we need some space. But we don't seem to care about that because crime is the issue this year, crime is the issue de jour. And it's okay for the state government or the county government to rob people because there's no penalty for that, but it's not okay for people out on the streets to do it. And I would agree, we