

the charges and, as a result, our jail became very overcrowded. They did have a bond issue to build a bigger and...a much bigger jail and I was one who was out campaigning against it because I realized what the problem was. This person left, in fact, he came to Lincoln. Our new county attorney who is now our district judge installed a work release program and an electronic monitoring program for those people that really they weren't that serious a charge and they could be out in...without any breach of safety for anyone in the community. That worked very successfully; not only saved the county money from housing those people but also saved us a lot on the medical costs and so forth. Now, as a result, we have plenty of room in our jails. I do realize that Lancaster County and Douglas County probably have a bigger problem than we do up in our area. We did poll all the county sheriffs in my district and they all suggested that we leave it the way it is. So I'm just giving you this all as a point of information. I don't know whether the same process would work down here as it works up there, but that's why I voted against it last time and probably why I will vote against it this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Engel. Any further discussion? Seeing none, the motion is to advance to E & R initial. Senator Lindsay, you have an opportunity to close.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I'm just going to take just a couple seconds. The best argument I can make in front of it is to, for this, is to ask you to transcribe Senator Brashear's comments and have you reread them. He stated as succinctly as I possibly could, he just stated it in much better...couched it in much better terms. This is not a bill about getting tough on crime. The laws are in place. If we want to get tough on crime let's bump up the penalties. This is about controlling the populations in the jails and protecting corrections officials. We talk about getting tough on crime, but by the same token when we reach those...when population gets up too close to capacity we're going to start releasing on work release, or we're going to start releasing on house arrest, and we're still not going to...if we think we're getting tough on crime I don't think we're doing it by sending people and having them stay at home with the TV and the beer in the fridge and all that kind of stuff, I don't think that's getting tough on crime. But a vote against this bill is a vote in that direction. I would urge you to vote to advance LB 234. And, Mr. Speaker, I think at some point I'm going to need a call of the house, so