

as we're in the juvenile and the crime area here. I'm going to oppose this amendment. I want to put you on notice that we're going to oppose all amendments that will decrease any funding in this particular area and I want to warn you also that we have a proposed committee amendment to increase some of the money in this area even on top of our present budget which will come up in order hopefully this afternoon yet. We have a very serious crime problem in Nebraska, in most parts of Nebraska, perhaps not all. But our real problem is becoming an increasing juvenile crime. We've got 105 percent increase in commitment of youth to Geneva. We've got a 322 percent, 322 percent increase admittance to Kearney. We've gone from the average stay in Kearney in 1986 of 11.4 months, Kearney today is 5.3 months. We're going to be asking to open another wing at Kearney. At least temporarily we're going to be asking for the PSL for that and we're going to be asking for another \$500,000 to operate Kearney. If I have mentioned before on the floor, many areas have taken surveys. Property taxes are a huge issue in Nebraska, but I would think that the crime issue is even bigger and so I'm going to resist any cutting of criminal justice areas anywhere at all in this budget, not knowing if we're going to get to the crime bill which has more money in it, but we've got a significant increase in there. I would ask you, what can we do about it? I admit that throwing money is not the answer, but I have been in meetings in my home town recently all wanting to get tougher, all concerned about the things that we need to do. Judges are asking for more time at Kearney. They can't do it because it has turned into a revolving door so we're going to be seeing more later on in juvenile services, community based programs, all of those kinds of things. Nowhere at this point do we have a request for a new prison which is \$50 million and perhaps \$15 million a year to operate it. We do not have that request in yet, but I do have the bill in my pocket so to speak because we may well reach that if we're not careful. So this money, going back to this issue, this money is for a contingency in case we need it. Actually we think we probably will need it this next year in the juvenile area. So we have problems here that once again money is not all the answer. There are going to have to be increased community programs and I'm confident that many areas of many communities are doing that. But I just want to remind you this is going to be the first of several and we're going to be asking for some increases, not decreases in this area, and if you have better ideas, then obviously anyone is for it and I know Judiciary Committee would be happy to look. But I am concerned that not only probably you're not going to get to