

overcrowding? LB 371, when you create more mandatory minimum sentences and extend the sentences for existing offenses. That is what creates the overcrowding. None of these approaches has ever been shown to reduce the number of crimes committed nor the recidivism rate. As a matter of fact, these things aggravate both of them. You get an opposite result to what "common sense" tells us we ought to get. It seems like if you put more people in jail for a longer time there would be a reduction in crime. That has been attempted in South Africa. America has now outstripped South Africa as the country with the most people...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...locked up. Russia is hot on the heels of both of them because more and more people are doing the types of things that land them in prison. The approach or response by these three countries, America, Russia and South Africa, has been to incarcerate more and more people with less and less positive result. And you have to keep in mind that all of these people are going to come back out some day. So what we should be aiming for is a set of circumstances which will make them less antisocial when they come out than when they went in. Boot camps, or by whatever name they're called, cannot serve that function. And I have no reluctance about supporting this amendment that's before us and I hope we will adopt it and strip boot camps from this bill.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Stuhr, your light is next.

SENATOR STUHR: Senator Hall and members of the body, I rise in support of the Withem-Stevens amendment to eliminate the boot camps from LB 371. Frankly, I think that spending the \$6 million might be an unnecessary gamble with the hard earned taxpayer money just for the sake of political rhetoric. I think probably boot camps sound good as some of the previous speakers have said, but I think it's actually hard to find statistics that actually prove that they are effective. And I've been trying to do some research and finding some of these facts. And I do have a statistic from Louisiana boot camps, in 1991, they found that 37 percent of boot camp inmates were arrested at least once during their first year of freedom compared to only 25.7 percent of inmates who were released on parole. So I really feel that fiscally they may not be in the best interests of Nebraskans, and who knows actually how effective they might