

up here I have an idea of what I'm going to say, not always but usually. But I have so many things going through my mind that I'm not sure what I will say. I guess I'm probably as frustrated as anybody. I appreciate the effort and the work that has gone into this and I know there has been a lot. I know it has been a long session and I appreciate that. The thing that it points up to me is that there is a significant problem here in the process. There is a problem in our process that needs fixing. And there is no rule that will fix it. Every rule that we adopt is based on good faith that we will be operating to the utmost to try to do what all of us want to do and that is to pass legislation that's important to us and our constituents in the best form that we can. That's kind of the bottom line for me. So when you get away from that, no rule really helps and the focal point we're at right now is a perfect example. The people of Nebraska have the impression that crime is our number one problem. Whether you agree with that or not, we have an obligation to deal with it, to examine it, to examine it very closely; and if there are changes needed, to make those changes. Now for us to have 90 days and to have 8, maybe 16 hours of debate, most of which is not on probably the most important things that many of us feel need to be discussed is an injustice in the processing of the crime bill. And it's a bigger injustice than most anything probably that I can think of that we can do. And I am as responsible as anybody. I'm not blaming anybody but I'm telling you that from my point of view we have to fix the process, and that's not going to be easy because everybody is worried about their turf and about power and this and that. But we've got to empower somebody or some group of individuals to keep us on a course that's productive. A bill like this should be discussed at least at the midpoint of the session for the first time and it should be discussed as long as it takes. And if we digress into irrelevant subjects, someone should have the power to bring us back or call us out of order. It should have another debate after reflection on that first debate and a chance for our constituents, whether it be the people in the penitentiary or whether it be the county attorneys, to point out the irregularities or inconsistencies or problems with the legislation and then it should have a Final Reading that's meaningful. I'm not comfortable stampeding into passing something that I don't understand and I'm not an expert but most of the words that are in the bill I've worked with at one time or another and I don't feel comfortable with it so I don't know how in the world the folks here that haven't had a chance to be in the process of dealing with the law feel about