

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you, Madam Chairman, members of the body, you know, this is really an interesting debate here. Senator Lindsay says that we should completely ignore the law that he passed two years ago and that's the reason why we shouldn't pay any attention to it now because we've been ignoring it for two years since they passed it. Well, to me, it's got to sound ridiculous to everybody, including me, when they hear that. We passed a law, the Legislature passed a law, I did not vote for it two years ago. I fought against its passage. I tried to get the amendment to it to strike the words "null and void" from that piece of legislation and if you want to see the transcript from the discussion two years ago on 507 and have Senator Lindsay, Senator Warner, who's bill...they were cosponsors on the bill, if you want to see what these people were saying, tearing, myself, Senator Pirsch, Senator Abboud apart on this floor because we dared to fight this piece of legislation. If you want to read the press release from our own Governor who at that time said he was taking a tough stand against crime and now we need to put our money where our mouth is, this is the rhetoric that went around LB 507 two years ago. I did not vote for the bill, I thought it was a terrible piece of legislation, I fought the bill, 35 people on this floor passed it and the Governor signed it. Two years later we work on a crime bill and believe me, I've given as much time to this as I could too on the floor, but, Senator Lindsay, you did bring it out of your committee, you have worked on it. I almost wonder if it wasn't because you knew that five...and I can't help but think this, that 507 was out there because I didn't remember 507. It was a terrible piece of legislation. I forgot about it until Senator Wickersham brought it up and I put his language in, I have that too if you'd like to see that on the floor. I put what he said on the debate, on the discussion on the A bill the other day and at that time I knew I was going to vote to get rid of the A bill because I didn't want to go, we didn't have the hours of debate on the A bill, but I wanted to make sure that I was not jeopardizing the passage of 371 because I want to see this pass and I want to see it be a validly enacted law in the State of Nebraska. I care about that bill. It's not something I want to see land in the courts as soon as it leaves here, so I asked for an Attorney General, I asked for an Attorney General's Opinion. He didn't come to me giving his opinion. You can't get an Attorney General's Opinion unless somebody asks for it and I asked that, we put it together, my staff and I, and asked for an Attorney General's Opinion on whether 371 would be stopped, would be null and void because of 507, and he doesn't start on