

crime is more serious but I'm getting a better good-time break than you're getting. I think we ought to have consistency and I respectfully suggest to you that this is not the crime bill, it's coming. This is not the death penalty bill, it's coming. This isn't the debate on boot camps, it's coming. This is a policy issue about how we allow our professionals and our elected officials who are more directly responsible for managing and handling prison and jail populations than are we to do their job. My amendment was designed to produce a chuckle. It was designed to make a point. Since I'm likely to withdraw the amendment and thereby not have a close, I'll say that if you read the amendment carefully, it gives you an opportunity to do what apparently we want to do. We want to vote for criminal population control and we want to vote for property tax...real property tax control, and everybody would want to vote for that and no one would want to vote against it, and then we could pass this and go on with all the business of the people. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Brashear. The amendment is withdrawn. Anything further on the bill?

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill at this time, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Okay, we're back then to discussing the motion to advance. Senator Pedersen. Senator Pedersen, you are recognized to speak on the motion to advance LB 234.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I, first of all, need to let you know that what happened the last time this bill came up I went as a voter not voting at all. That was against my own judgment and against my own feelings, and, for those of you that I might have led into voting...not voting for the bill, I apologize to. This is not a crime bill. That's all I want to say, this is not a crime bill. We have some crime bills coming up that we need to spend some time on and do something about crime. Once again, this is a bill that helps as a lever in the jails and it helps also in our overcrowding, and we have overcrowding in a lot of the jails in the State of Nebraska. This bill will not do one little bit to make crime worse or to make crime better. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Chambers.