

situation there because we're trying to control the budget and understaffing the situation. The good time provisions are very important to them. So it seems to me, under the circumstances, that deferring to people that have the expertise makes sense. They know the situation. We're talking about equity here, as Senator Lindsay talked about, but I think Senator Brashear's points are well taken. That's exactly what I saw when I looked into the situation and so, I, too, will be supporting LB 234.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Jensen.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, the crimes that are committed here and even though that they are...even they are misdemeanors, they are serious. They are not felonies but they are still serious. When you look at the list that goes down and what is considered misdemeanor, the assault on children, child abuse, they are very serious crimes. Also, that first sentence, even though it may be plea bargained down, is still a very important sentence, probably the most important sentence that an individual can receive. It will, many times, direct whether he will continue in a life of crime or if he will really feel the message and try to get his life back on the straight and narrow. We must recognize that statistics tell us that 7 percent of the criminals are committing 70 percent of the crimes, and so that message that we send to that first-time offender is going to be the message that he bases his life on. It will make him decide whether he can get away with this and whether, gee, seven days, that's not so bad, I can withstand that; two weeks, yeah, that's a lot tougher. He'll have time to reflect. He'll have time to think. I did not receive from my constituents one single call or letter in support of this bill. I did receive many calls. I received many letters. Over the weekend, I had eight calls, as a matter of fact, of people who said don't give up the...that good time provision. I really do believe that it is time to tell the offender that we will not tolerate his acts upon society today. It is time to tell him that there isn't credited good time, only earned good time and, therefore, I would appeal to you to reject once more LB 234. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, we, too, had an overcrowded jail in Dakota County, Nebraska just a few years ago. Our county attorney, at that time, was compounding