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LB 46, 407

on it for seven years, Dr. Samuel Johnson wrote the first English dictionary. In that first edition, he misdefined the word "hock," that is, the false knee of a horse. He was asked by a lady at dinner one day why he had made that mistake. And Samuel Johnson turned to her and said, "Ignorance, madam, pure ignorance." Now, if that's good enough for Samuel Johnson, it's good enough for me. I spoke for and voted for Senator Dwite Pedersen's motion last night. And I support the reconsideration motion by Senator Schimek. There's a reason for that. I did not assume last night that the people we were voting on, if you want to look on it in that fashion, were sweet, innocent, virginal young people. I, however, took a look at what some of them were doing. Here is a man, 15 counts, probation violation, escape, minor in possession of alcohol, attempted escape, speeding, all of these. Another one...and this guy has got a problem. He's got 12 counts, and 5 of them consider weapons. Yet another man here has 51 counts. These aren't virgins. Should we be paying attention to the parole system of Nebraska? That's one of the problems. Because the figures that Senator Dwite Pedersen gave us last night clearly indicate that we should be looking at this. And Senator Don Pederson mentioned, and very correctly, that this was an issue-driven matter. LB 46, which is on the...on Final Reading now, does consider this matter. I think something probably needs to be done, because even though we may not have hardened, hardened criminals up on this probation list, states other than Nebraska which have considerably longer periods of probation than Nebraska, have roughly the same profile, I'm sure. I don't think there's a big difference. You look at the list of offenses, and a lot of them are repetition, they are drug related, they are driving under suspension related, as Senator Dwite Pedersen said. But the thing of it is, they are offenses that, while not serious in themselves, still indicate that the person involved has a problem with being in society. Now, they're going to get out. Senator Pedersen...Senator Dwite Pedersen made that point. I accept that point. Should they be given consideration more than they presently are? I think we have to look at that, because with nine-month parole as an average length in Nebraska, and 22 in, I assume 49 other states, something is awry here, and we have to take a look at it. But...there's always a "but."