

January 22, 1974

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion now of the Goodrich amendment. The question is shall the Goodrich amendment be adopted. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote no. You are voting for the adoption on the Goodrich amendment to LB 568 on General File. This is a vote on the Goodrich amendment only. Have you all voted? Once again have you all voted? Clerk will record.

CLERK: 9 ayes, 12 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion is defeated.

CLERK: A motion on the desk.

PRESIDENT: Read the motion.

CLERK: I move to indefinitely postpone LB568 (Signed) Senator DeCamp.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator DeCamp for his motion.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President and members of the body. Of course this is the same bill that we have already killed once. And which you know has been revived, and so I'm going to try to be very brief and give you the additional information maybe that we didn't have the other day. Let's think back. We were discussing the fact we were going to free from the penitentiary a number of people who were improperly being held because they had theoretically written small checks and had been locked up for doing this for years at a time. And the number we were talking about was 12%. Now like so many pieces of legislation that come before this body sometimes we don't all get all of our homework done, and all of the information that you are going to need to make a wise decision. I knew the figure was 12%, but I also suggested to you that if a study were made of that 12% you would discover that these weren't some innocent children that had been accidentally writing a few checks and been locked up, in fact I suggested to you that probably most of them were forgery. And other type of offenses. Well the other day I passed out to you a complete and detailed breakdown of every human being in the Nebraska Penal Complex who is there on what is known as check related offenses. And if you still have that before you will see that of that 12% of the total population, approximately 90% of that of 12% like we kind of suspected are there on forgery. And that type of offense, the forgery in conjunction with rape, break-in, a murder or two. This trifling matters. I then got a complete break down of every individual in the Penal Complex who is there on "insufficient fund check" the one we are trying to save. And to see whether we had a bunch of people locked up there who really shouldn't be there. And you have that sheet which was passed out a couple days ago. And that shows that every individual on an insufficient fund check to a man there is up in the thousands of dollars class in the insufficient check class, and in almost cases has things like..well let's just look at a couple.. insufficient fund checks, 2 to 4 years. A young fellow names Jerry Causer, his insufficient fund check was \$108, but that is not the whole story, when he goes on he has 4 previous felonies for obtaining money under false pretenses, forgery, cattle stealing, defraud and burglary. They go down the list one after the other almost identical. Let's pick another one at random. Max Groth, insufficient fund check, one to three years. Escapee in custody in Scotts Bluff. He has a previous felony of no fund check. Now if I didn't know anything more than that I might even be suspicious on Max Groth. But I once received a call from a man named Max Groth, who is out