

March 11, 1982

LB 870

the overcrowding conditions. Then below that in Montgomery, Alabama, there is a wholesale release of 352 more prisoners, so others have been released already. But because of the overcrowding that had to occur. Following that is a WOW T editorial the last paragraph of which says: "Meanwhile, a question. With no provisions in the President's program for federal funding of new corrections facilities, where are we going to put all those bad guys, the new 'get tough' programs sentenced to prison." And the rest of the editorial deals with these attitudes of the Reagan Administration which were designed to bring back into prominence the Duke Wayne syndrome, John Wayne, for those of you who are not on the familiar terms with him. The next page talks about the soaring number of inmates in jails throughout the country. Now Norman Carlson is the Director of the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, and he said, The Reagan Administration budget cuts would force him to reduce support for half-way houses this year rather than increase it as he would have preferred. So here is an expert who is telling you that the long prison sentences are not the thing to be done in the area of correction, but unfortunately those with the knowledge are not the ones who vote on laws. It goes on to say that state officials attributed the increase to new stiffer sentencing and parole laws as well as an increase in crime rates. It talks about California and New York, both of which recently enacted laws mandating prison for certain violent and drug related offenses. Both added more than 2000 inmates. Then the last paragraph talks about Indiana which abolished parole altogether. They are now facing a situation where the prison population has grown 34 percent and they have what they term as a crisis. On that same page is more discussion of Nebraska's problem with overcrowding in the Penitentiary. I am getting this into the record. There is an article even from the Daily Nebraskan which talks about some comments made by an assistant professor of Criminal Justice and he indicated that building new prisons and expanding existing facilities is a national trend which may be shortsighted and could make the crime control situation worse. So if you would like to read any of these things to get more information, they are there for you. Then we come to the World Herald. An editorial in the Omaha World Herald, one of the most reactionary, non-compassionate newspapers in the state, why the editor could be a member of the Legislature, the most conservative wing who could stand next to my good friend, Senator Howard Peterson and make him seem like a wild-eyed radical. And here is what the World Herald had to say. They are talking in an editorial dated March 6th, 1982, about those who will not register for the draft and they said that it is not

8730