

those definitions will continue to apply to the new operative sections which are in your committee amendments. Basically, this is going to be the first computer crime, committee crime bill, computer crime bill that the State of Nebraska has had. Twenty-one other states now have gone through the process of enacting a separate set of bills, separate set of legislation to deal with offenses that are committed to and with computers. The bill that you have before you today is a combination of the laws of several states that have been modified to pertain, hopefully, and to fit carefully into, hopefully, the Nebraska Statutes. We worked with the California Statutes principally and with the Florida Statutes and we worked with a computer consultant out of California by the name of Don Parker who was kind enough to give us a lot of good advice and I go back and tell you a little bit about how we worked on the bill because I am not an expert on computers myself. This is not going to be the last word in computer law I assure you. Everybody in the country is trying to figure out how to deal with the technology that is changing so rapidly as to outdate the laws even as we make them. So this is a beginning and I hope a good beginning. If you want to follow through on the committee amendments and on the green copy of the bill, I will go through quickly and explain to you the substantive sections of the committee amendments, and before doing that I might say by way of giving you a sense of where you are in Nebraska law that there are currently provisions in Nebraska law that prosecutors could take and try to apply to computer crimes. We have obviously laws against theft. We have laws against the theft of services. We have laws against vandalism. We have laws against violations of confidentiality of one type or another and all these things can be attempted to be taken and used and applied to computer crimes because generically, of course, the crimes are the same. But the problem has been and the advice of all the experts has been that you need to define in terms of computer language and what is going on in the computer world these different crimes for the reason that, if nothing else, county attorneys and the average county attorney and the average judge out there may well not understand how current terminology can be applied to computer crimes and therefore may not apply it. You may have a situation where computer crimes effectively escape the punishment of the law because definitions are held by different courts not to apply to these new technological situation that are evolving. So that is the reason why I