

that was taken out earlier this year. I'm sure it will be brought in by different members, or maybe brought in one particular bill, we'll be able to debate that bill next year. We'll probably run into the same sort of problem that we're encountering this year, but maybe the rules will be changed, I don't know. That's what some members tell me, that things will be different next year. But it's been my experience that change sometimes comes slow, and I'm willing to accept at least this portion of the bill, which I feel is a major step forward in corrections and the way we deal with rehabilitation of our criminals in this state. So I'm going to be voting against the Bromm amendment, motion. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Ashford, on the Bromm amendment.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, and I rise again to support...to oppose the Bromm amendment but to support wholeheartedly Senator Abboud's bill. Just again for the record and sometimes we get into these discussions and we forget what the facts are and the facts are incredibly serious, that in Nebraska, Nebraska's prison population has more than doubled since 1980, to 2,576. The...since the late 1970s, Nebraska has built three new prisons and added buildings at two others. And, as I said in my last talk, we're adding three more in the next biennium. The cost from 1977 to 1988 spending for state and local prisons and jails increased 217 percent to 19 billion. In 1992, 161 of every 100,000 Nebraskans were imprisoned, up from 97 per 100,000 in 1982. Nationwide, the rate has increased from 154 to 326 per 100,000 people and nothing but increases in violent crime have occurred...has occurred, nothing but increases, nothing but increases in violent crime. One of every five convicted Nebraska felons released from prison returns within three years. In 1971, Nebraska has 16 reported serious crimes for every 1,000 residents. By 1991, and this is the statistic which is beyond, it's incredible. By 1991, the rate was 44 per 1,000, 44 per 1,000. So the crime rate, the violent rate in Nebraska has gone up proportionately with the increase in incarceration. Now, someone tell me how the increase in the traditional methods of incarceration are helping our solve crime in Nebraska. There is no basis for those assertions. And I'm tired of hearing people run around the state giving political speeches about if we just imprison more people and build more prisons, we're going to decrease violent crime. The violent offender needs to be