

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 17, 1997

LB 882

of you haven't been to them facilities, go there, it's unbelievable. But what's even worse is the length of stay, it's not long enough to do anything with these people. It's sinful what we're doing. Douglas County, Senator Witek is right, is spending over a million dollars out of the state of Nebraska in out-of-home placements that should be done in the state of Nebraska. And if these people... If we had the facilities to put these people in and the training facilities, the state would be paying that. Now I know Senator Will, I think it's his priority bill, is going to try to switch that cost from the county to the state. But I want to talk about another issue. I'm going to resist the bracket motion also, 'cause I want to suggest to you that most of the people that go into this facility, into the work camp will be young people, young adults. They will be charged as adults, but the biggest share of them will not be that emotionally mature enough that they don't need this kind of facility. I do believe that there's a point in between. I'm willing to work hour-wise, bill-wise, sign onto it with Senator Chris Peterson and work to see what we can do to get he department back where it's supposed to be in the...(inaudible) the people that are being charged in the juvenile court system, 'cause them juvenile court judges are just plain handcuffed. I can tell you the case that I'm working with right now in Sarpy County, that there is no place for this kid to go, and he will end up in our adult facility. If we had a program in Kearney that could take him, and not just a program for him to jump through the hoops and come back to society, the type of program that Senator Chris Peterson is talking about, we might be able to save this kid. The possibility of sending him out of state is going to cost us some money. We ought to be furnishing that, and that's what Senator Chris Peterson is talking about. So by resisting the bracket motion, I'm not resisting what Senator Chris Peterson is trying to do, I'm just saying I don't believe this is the avenue, 'cause I also believe we need this program. As I told you before, I see this program as being a treatment program comparable to that of substance abuse. And they go through the primary treatment, they set up an after-care plan, they go out after with their after-care plan with the intensive probation officers...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.