

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

May 27, 1997

LB 150

people and put them in a work release center today. But the place isn't built today. By the time we have it built, we can have these people in that kind of program. By the way, this electronic monitoring could also be paid for by the inmate. And let me tell you, the people, the inmates would be more than glad to do this. And I'm not talking about letting homicides, robberies, burglaries, assaults. If you look at the second page of that '96 printout, we can get 20 percent of these people out of the area of drugs, fraud, motor vehicle and other, and other has to do with misdemeanors that are in prison, false permits, false reporting and criminal nonsupport, those people that were put in jail for not paying their child support. And they could go out during the day and make this and work and make a living and report back. My amendment goes further than that, people, because I believe in jobs for the inmate is at the living quarters, the housing units that these people would live in and these work release centers would be built by the inmates that are presently on the inside, by Cornhusker State Industries. They have built one of these facilities already, a modular home that they use for a class room, out at the Nebraska Correctional Treatment Center, and it's nicer than the one they bought on the outside market. Again, they're going to say it can't be done, but it can be. And after being in the Legislature five years and hearing about us running the purse strings and we're supposed to be making some of the decisions down here, I think it's time that we come in some areas, not just in this area but many different areas of government, that if you can't do it, then get out of the way, and let's find somebody who can. By having these people pay their own way, I'm guessing that we will save somewhere at least a third, if not upward to a half of what it costs to build this facility we're now talking about in LB 150. Ten dollars a day from 800 prisoners is a lot of money. But I've also gone back and said maybe we need to use some of these people to run the institution. So I said...and my amendment says you can take 20 percent of them and keep them in the facility for running the facility or doing work detail that they now, work detail is when they go out with the...somebody on the roads and clean up the roads, or work in one of them positions where they get the...less money and don't pay the taxes.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.