

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

June 12, 1997

LB 389

communications error on the veto message of LB 389, and a I have report from the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority. That's all that I have, Mr. President. (See pages 2721-22 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. As I understand it, we were debating motions to override gubernatorial vetoes this morning. We're on LB 389. Can you please state the next motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Kiel would move to override the Governor's line-item veto with respect to security staffing at the Department of Correctional Services for FY '97-98.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kiel. Please start again.

SENATOR KIEL: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I thought long and hard before I decided to take this particular override motion on. There are a number of things that I think are very important in terms of providing adequate funding, but when I looked at the possibilities of different areas that I thought needed funding I came to the inescapable conclusion that the most needy, the most important, the most serious issue that needed to be spoken to was the issue of staffing at the correctional...Lincoln Correctional Facility and the Diagnostic and Evaluation Unit. We, as a Legislature, have indicated that we wish to build facilities to house more prisoners, but we have not adequately housed there...or staffed the facilities that we have now. I speak specifically to the situation at the Lincoln Correctional Center and the Diagnostic and Evaluation Unit. I call your attention to the two handouts that you should have in front of you. One is a listing of the Department of Correctional Services adult staffing, and the other is a letter I requested from Jim Nelson with regard to the staffing over time of these two facilities. And I want to point out to you a couple of statistics that are contained in the letter that I requested from Jim Nelson. First of all, in 1979 the Lincoln Correctional Center was opened as a minimum-medium facility. It was designed for 308 inmates. At the time, there were 102 staff employed. On June 2, 1997, the correctional facility, the Lincoln Correctional Center, is now a maximum-medium classified facility and on this date the