

March 25, 1974

(Start Belt #9)

to the newspapers his own personal critique. I guess you would call it of the plans submitted by the Judiciary Committee in which he said it was too bad that all that the Committee did was to consider felon. I immediately called Dee Lofgren that very week end. And we had about an hours conversation on this very point. I asked, Dee Lofgren to please review, the comprehensive report by the committee, and if he agreed with me after that to please advise that we were not only including felons, but misdemeanants, but in fact we were covering all community corrections in Nebraska. The whole thrust, and impact of this report which we made a year ago last January was to go in the direction of community correction. That means misdemeanants. It even goes beyond that. It means diversion The thing the Attorney General talks about. First there is diversion, where you don't even get in the criminal justice system. There there is the misdemeanor and the felon on the local level through probation. And that's what this bill that we're discussing right now is so important about. Because it puts the money in this bill for probation, for community treatment such as the kind of facilities we saw in Des Moines. We don't need any other studies. We don't need any other implementation other than this bill right here to give to probation office a chance to go to work. Now, it certainly is not limited to felons. The misunderstanding comes in this way. The only reason that there is any limitation to felon, is on the institutional building level. That LB1055. When we get to capital construction. The only responsibility that the people of the State of Nebraska, and this Legislature has toward buildings is on the felony level. That's where we deal with felons only. That is because the Penal Complex takes the felony convicts and takes care of them, has them in their custody, and in their control. The Board of Parols and Pardons has to deal with those people who are in those institutions. When we deal with that then we are only talking about felony. But as far as the plan goes, the plan talks about all corrections, from the shoplifter, from the misdemeanor, right on up to the mass murderer who can be sentenced to the electric chair in Nebraska, and to the state institutional level. All that you have to do is to go to this report on page 11, and read the summary of recommendations. I have my particular copy and I'm not going to take the time to go through it now. I have it tabed with about twenty five tabs throughout. There is a thread throughout this report that says that it is a complete comprehensive report for all corrections in Nebraska. And I refer you to the bill, which set up our committee, our statutory committee of the Advisory Committee, which mandated to the Judiciary Committee, to come out with a report treating of all corrections. Just read it. That's what it says. And Dee Lofgren, we don't need Dee Lofgren to come before this body. The Judiciary Committee is reporting to you, have reported to you, and will report to you as many times as you ask us that this is the plan for Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: Now here is the speaking order, Senator Fellman, Stahmer, Goodrich and Cavanaugh. Senator from West Omaha, Senator Fellman.