

I can't accept this without some documentation as to why it's good, as to why the time is now. And this Legislature, we can tell you to talk about penal reform and all types of reform. Well, some reform is good but I just can't believe that everything is so bad that when 49 people come down here as a new Body that they can reconstruct everything that's been in government about a nearly 200-year period. Including the Douglas County sheriff's office. I just can't believe that things are that bad. If they're that bad, why doesn't somebody say they're bad. Nobody's saying why it's good or why things are bad up there. They're just saying this is the way to go. I am not going to change the way things have been done. I know Sheriff Janing personally. I think most of the Omaha delegation certainly does, many of the members of the LEGISLATURE do. I don't think it's a matter of the current sheriff. I just want to know why the Douglas County Board is pushing so hard for this bill. What makes them corrections experts? We've sat on the Committee of Committees and the toughest argument we had this year was on the Parole Board. The makeup of the state parole board. And the argument on the Committee on Committees was that they should have expertise. They should be trained experts so I would just hope that you would continue to go along and support Senator Kime on this bill. If it's this good, certainly the county's going to be back but I hope when they come back that they'll have some better documentation than what they've shown this Legislature.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. President and members of the Body. Just a couple of questions I'd like to pose and probably to Senator Fellman and maybe they should just be asked and not even answered. But Senator Fellman dwelt quite a while on the empire, retention of an empire by the Douglas County sheriff. It would appear to me that a question would be completely logical, whose empire are we talking about? The County Board's or the County Sheriff's and I just pose it as a question. The County Board...or we could legitimately say they're trying to build their empire a little larger. Now the sheriff is just as capable perhaps, depending on persons, of course, of hiring proper professionals of running the correctional department as is the County Board. Which is...it's been stated they will do. Now we've had the same old story thrown at us that we get almost every day that we might lose federal funds and Senator Fellman said maybe. And I think that's the way it stands but I think it's quite doubtful and I'd like to ask that question. Is it certain if a sheriff continues to be the head of the correctional department that the federal funds will not be available even though that he will run it, run the same facility and hire perhaps the same...at least equally qualified professionals, Senator Fellman?

SENATOR FELLMAN: If not, certainly it's probable. I can't say that it's certain. It's been talked about by the federal people. There have been a number of studies. Senator Snyder is dead wrong that there...that this has been done in a number of cities and it's been successful. Dade County, Florida, the greater Miami area has it. You talk about...and it's been very successful in the Miami area and in a number of other cities. You talk about empire building. Let me explain...let me answer your question this way. The sheriff is primarily a law enforcement officer. Traditionally he had the jail. His training, and Sheriff Janing's training