

April 2, 1974

SENATOR FELLMAN: Well, I would like to merely explain to the members of the Legislature, that I'm for the amendment originally, and I'm for Senator Stahmer's as the leader in the three to two effort in the Judiciary Committee. And that the only massive victory that I have probably achieved in my tenure in the Legislature. I would like, and certainly the only one that I have had lately. I would like to explain very quickly the reasons for placing that building in Omaha. And it was as I recall, Senator Luedtke, isn't it true that over 60% of the people in the...that would be eligible for the medium minimum security building come from Douglas County.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Well, I don't believe it's 60, but 70% I think from both Lancaster and Douglas counties.

SENATOR FELLMAN: It seems to me it was 60%...

SENATOR LUEDTKE: 50 something.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Between 50 and 60% are from Douglas County.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: I think you are right.

SENATOR FELLMAN: And about 15% from Lancaster, and the rest spread out through the state. Now the purpose to the...the purpose of this facility is to try to rehabilitate and get people back out onto the streets, in a useful constructive way. And that involves utilizing jobs for job training. Utilizing vocational education. Utilizing educational facilities. And getting people back into the swing of family living, rather than putting them off and away. Since it's true that well over half the people come from Douglas County, and there are more jobs available in Douglas County than anywhere else. There are more school facilities available and their family ties could be built up again. The committee passed by this massive three to two vote the recommendation that this be in Omaha. And I would like to suggest that this..I would be all for another three to two vote on this one. I think the Legislature should approve Senator Stahmer's amendment. And then approve the rest of the amendments.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fred Carstens.

SENATOR FRED CARSTENS: Mr. President and members. I was a member of the Judiciary Committee when this study was made. And Senator Fellman, in part answer to your question to Senator Luedtke about the two facilities. I was there when the..when the study group sort of as an after thought recommended one facility in Lincoln and one in Omaha. And I asked them, I said is that because you think you can get the vote this way. And they said, Yes, that's the reason. And this the reason that there were two recommended was, because it might provide a better vote or stronger vote for the whole idea. Well not because they were needed. But it was because it was to obtain the vote of those members of the Legislature who lived east of Lincoln. Probably would be better if we would move it a little bit west of Lincoln to enable the people from Douglas County who get in trouble with the law. Many of them have never been out of Omaha. And it might be healthy for them to get out in the fresh air and find out that there is another place in this state besides Omaha, so I'm.. I'm luke warm on this idea.