

LB782

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valid because Dade County, of course, has city county merger whereas Douglas County does not. There are very distinctive powers within the sheriff's office, especially in the largest county in the state, Douglas County. So again I apologize for taking more time on this but I assure you that in my conversations with Douglas County persons in the sheriff's office, they really aren't flipping cart wheels hoping for the passage of LB782. We want to talk about reform, let's do it in a judicious procedure. Let's not bring in a bill without any study, without any well educated approach as to why it is needed piece of legislation. Let's take our time. We've had probate reform so-called. We've had so-called penal reform and other reforms that in my short time in the Legislature, every one of these "major reforms" has results in some second thoughts by many members of the Legislature shortly after their passage because they just didn't receive the effort put into them that they really should have had. I would submit to you that LB782 is in this same vein. Let's leave it where it is and if it's such a good idea, I assure that there are those in this Body and elsewhere who will work towards passage of a bill next year.

PRESIDENT: The Chair next recognizes Senator Syas, then Senator Murphy.

SENATOR SYAS: I'm going to be very, very short, just make two statements. The feeding of prisoners has got into this act some place in Douglas County. And if I recall, we changed that law, was changed probably twenty years ago, that the sheriff up there doesn't get a profit, from feeding prisoners. I think we're the only county that that happens and I also wish to say to Senator Barnett that if this is so good for Douglas, how come it isn't so good for Lancaster? Unless (inaudible). Rehab program I believe in to an extent but people that commit high crimes, they can't expect the general public to treat them like they were living in the Broadmoor or the Hilton. They're in jail for a purpose and I don't think we should make them too comfortable.

PRESIDENT: All right, next to speak is Senator Murphy... then Dickinson, then Mahoney. Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: It just occurred as an afterthought on Senator Syas' comment that really instead of sending them to the Broadmoor or the Hilton, we could put them in college and then we'll solve that enrollment problem. However, what I really wanted to bring out is to support Senator Kime in his thought. Measles usually start someplace and the first thing you know, it's spread throughout the territory and I think we had very fine evidence of that this year in here where we had an innocuous little bill that applied only to Douglas County having to do with elections by district. And before you know it, every school district in the state was right up to their ears in districts. And Senator Chambers was just clever enough to almost make it stick. So I say to you that Senator Kime has a very fine justification for his concern that what we start in one place could very quickly spread. I think our sheriffs overall probably are more knowledgeable in the field of corrections and would be in a position to evaluate the abilities of such a commission within it. I have no objection whatsoever to correctional procedures being instituted but I don't believe that the average county board has the knowledge and the expertise