

and that is also what we're talking about because they can provide these services to other subdivisions of government. I hope, and I do not have anything to say about what the inmates will be paid, but I hope the inmates will be paid a comparable wage so that they will be able to earn some money, earn some income, to provide for themselves, provide for their families, and hopefully if they have injured an individual they can provide some income to the reparations fund. It's a new concept, I agree. Senator Koch is concerned about competition for private industry. I'd like to remind him that back a few years ago, the Legislature put the counties in the business of providing spraying services, notwithstanding the fact that a bunch of us had invested hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars in spraying equipment, and were making a living at it. Time after time I used to go out and bid a spraying job and find out that publicly owned equipment could underbid me and I got a little bit tired, Senator Koch, of finding out that the only spraying jobs that I was called on were those that were underneath the power lines or next to somebody's bean field where the publicly owned equipment couldn't operate or didn't want to operate, and so it's no...it isn't anything new, you know, that we enter into a certain amount of competition. The facts are that we have a resource at the penitentiary in inmate labor. The inmates are not at the present time being well trained. They're not being utilized. Senator Nore used to say repeatedly, and Senator Chambers used to always correct him...Senator Nore always said, idleness is the devil's workshop, and I think Senator Chambers can correct me on that, but somehow or other he always did, but I think the message is there that to keep these individuals busy and productive, that useful labor is first of all of benefit to the individual inmate. Secondly, it's a benefit to society. I think that is my intent. It's not my intention to exploit the inmates at the Penitentiary. It's not my intention to deliberately provide a situation where the inmates at the University or inmates of the Penitentiary, some people might say there is a similarity, the inmates at the Penitentiary are in a favored position, but I think that it's asking a great deal of an individual who has been confined to a penal institution...

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...for a period of years, in enforced idleness, or at best to be employed in menial labor, which in most instances he will not follow when he leaves the