

April 12, 1979

LB 319

and we are repealing what's in 83-144, originally there was some prohibition against that kind of competition.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak, do you wish to speak on the bill? We have about one minute left on the bill.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I have a question of Senator Schmit.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR DWORAK: Primarily...first of all, Senator Schmit, I'm in total agreement with the concept of getting these people to work. I think that's very necessary that they have meaningful activity rather than no activity, and I think it would be for the betterment of the inmates and society. The thing that's concerning me is the fiscal note, Senator Schmit, and I'm having some trouble understanding it. As I understand it, the compensation that you are proposing for these inmates, would be utilized for their own support and also reparation to victims. Is that correct, Senator Schmit?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, that is correct, Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Is there anything left then, or any incentive for the inmates to work as far as compensation?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, the bill also provides for an individual to retain some of their own earnings for their own personal use.

SENATOR DWORAK: But if I understand the fiscal note, Senator Schmit, it says that there wouldn't be enough left over for the inmates to provide their toothpaste and this type of thing, and therefore that would have to be provided by the state because there would not be enough of their wages left over.

SENATOR SCHMIT: No, that is not correct, Senator Dworak, the first ten percent comes out for the inmate, the first ten percent of their wages, and as I told members of the Judiciary Committee if that wasn't high enough, if it's felt a greater amount was necessary to encourage the inmate to participate in this kind of activity, to raise that amount. I have no objection to raising it if you think it's necessary. I think they first of all should be able to have enough money to provide for their own personal needs and wants as much as any of the rest of us