

to how things are to be...how money is to be allocated. I think that with the new administration in our Department of Corrections we are proceeding now on a different course than we have in the past. I concur with the intent of Senator Schmit in that these people need to be gainfully employed, they need to be working. I think idleness is one of our major problems in our institutions in Nebraska and probably across this country. Some states have made giant strides to provide meaningful work for inmates, reimburse them for their efforts, which has not only resulted in an incentive to these people to be gainfully employed and to work, but it also has resulted in teaching them the work ethic, which I think is number one and essentially important. What these amendments do essentially by striking these sections, is to give the Department of Corrections the flexibility to reimburse these inmates. It also gives them the flexibility to subcontract, or it wouldn't preclude the Department of Corrections from subcontracting with a private industry in order to get gainful employment, and it also takes the mandatory limits as to what amount should be allocated for what purpose. For an example, subsection 5, the initial bill says ten percent is to be deposited as a release fund for the confined person. Now this is a noble purpose, and this is something that should be accomplished, but my only argument with it is we shouldn't in statute say ten percent. You know, whether that should be dollar amount, that is a decision that should be made to the administration. I would envision different types of work and different types of employment might require different compensation, and to say ten percent of one level and put it in the same context as ten percent of another, I don't think is proper to put that in the statute. By striking the ten percent and putting an amount left up to the discretion of the administration, to me is much more palatable and gives the administration the type of flexibility they need to operate a very progressive and productive prison system. There is a lot of different philosophies as opposed...the Texas philosophy as opposed to the Minnesota philosophy and I don't think we need to get into that in depth, but the point of the matter is I don't think with legislation we want to commit Nebraska on a specific course but we want to give the administration the flexibility to choose between the best of both of these types of prison operations. I have spent some time in Minnesota this summer touring and studying their facilities and their inmate labor programs, and in my estimation they are doing a lot of things right, and they are on the right track. Director Bolin spent the time with me up there and I know that he is amenable to a lot of the things they are doing. Again, we have years and years of precedent and years and years of