

the institutions we're talking about, still own farm property such as they did in the past and you will recall that in times passed we had a very excellent dairy herd at both institutions here in Lincoln. We had a good deal of farm property that was being farmed by the institution. Food was being provided. Why were these operations discontinued and do we still own that property that can again be brought back into production and be operated by the inmates of the institution, that in my opinion is fundamentally necessary. If there is anything that provides for discontent it would be boredom and I admire and support what you are trying to do here but could you tell me what has happened to this property? Is it still under the ownership of the Department of Correctional Services and why was it discontinued in the past. Did you go into that at all?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I will try to address it, Senator. First of all, when I first came to the Legislature eleven years ago we were in the process of dissolving much of the farm operation. It was deemed at that time not to be perhaps suitable labor for inmates, not the type of labor that many of them would engage in upon their release. I suppose it was considered to be not profitable. It is my sincere belief and I think we adopted the original idea some time ago that we would encourage the maximum utilization of labor out there. As I said earlier, the garden program that was adopted this past year was very good. They do not have under their control now, much of the land that was there, ten or twelve or fourteen years ago. I believe it has been leased out. Senator Warner could perhaps answer that question better than I could, but there is sufficient acres for some of the gardening crops that they have produced and they intend to continue that operation. I do not expect nor do I envision a wide scale expansion into the normal farming operations although I would certainly not be opposed to it. But based upon the principles that we have embodied in the bill there will be opportunities for inmates to become skilled in other types of work such as Senator Dworak has outlined are being used now in Minnesota, but the farming operation I do not think will ever be a major operation again.

SENATOR KREMER: Well I guess my concern was that while the words you are using here are encouragement to DCS to establish these operations again if they want to use the same reasoning in the past and discontinue it and I would be hopeful they could go much further and in a way you just answered my question. I think there would be some real value to again operate these lands that as