

you said they are under lease today. I think we could do a lot in the way of producing food for the institutions and above all keep the inmates busy and be engaged in something that is profitable and encouraging to them. I think, in my opinion at least, this would go a long way toward rehabilitating these people. We are not doing that by putting some of them behind the bars for a number of years. It does not accomplish what we need to do and it seems to me that we get them to be busy and this would be one area in which we could. I personally would like to see wordage in there that is much stronger than encourage. This is my comments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Two questions, Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: The first one is somewhat on the subject of Senator Kremer's. Will this bill now permit the department to go out and lease land for farming in competition with some of my constituents who have great trouble at finding land, for example?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Warner, are you referring to the gaining control of the land that was formerly owned and operated by the state or are you referring to land that they might lease in addition to that which is owned by the state?

SENATOR WARNER: Referring to land that they might lease that the state does not own. I have no disagreement whatsoever about operating state owned land.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well I think, Senator Warner, if they are going to do that it would require a heavy capital expenditure in equipment and they would probably have to first go to the Appropriations Committee and from your prestigious position there in the catbird seat, I doubt that they would get very much money for equipment although I kind of tend to agree with Senator Kremer that it would probably be a good thing if we did.

SENATOR WARNER: It is hard for me to argue with your logic, Senator, but they do have permission to go out and rent? Would they be able to rent hayland? That is what happened frequently.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator, yes, they would have that authority under this provision. Again, I doubt that they would do it.