

SENATOR WARNER: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is a bill that I have not liked from its inception and I saw it in an Attorney General's opinion which I think probably led to some of the amendments which Senator Schmit drafted. I still see serious problems with the bill. When you look at what happened in New Mexico I think the time has come to be very serious about the programs that are put into these penal institutions and I happen to know that not only does a disproportionate number of black people wind up in the pen for things that white people don't go to the pen for but a disproportionate number of people in the pen are from the cities. So to take a situation where city people are sent and train them in farm work and they come out and they cannot make use of it, I think is an exercise in futility. When they did have the farm the last time they had problems with parts of the administration stealing meat, the inmates not getting the cuts that they ought to get of the meat and it allowed a type of corruption because there was no real oversight. During those days I was going to the prison almost every day. In fact, some people thought that I was an inmate but a trustee because I was there so much of the time but nevertheless, I think we should not wait until something like New Mexico happens before we begin to evaluate what these institutions are doing to people. If there is such a degrading set of circumstances in the institution that it can reduce people to the level of animals, then something needs to be done about the institution. If people are there who already have these tendencies they should not be in a penal institution but some place where they can be given treatment and kept more securely handled than happened in that unfortunate situation out in New Mexico. I think the impetus for 319 was an attempt to address what is called the problem of the victim. Because it is a problem is not a basis for saying that any attempt to address it is valid. I don't think 319 really does anything other than make it possible to get contract convict labor and, Senator Warner, as to whether haylands will be used, you know the expression though, you have to make hay while the sun shines and the sun is shining in the Legislature when we are in session. So I see this bill as creating a situation where convict labor can be contracted for by farmers, by people with factories and anybody else who can be, by any stretch of the imagination, encompassed by the terms of this bill but for clarification I want to ask Senator Schmit a question. Senator Schmit, if the director, and he is given tremendous discretion in this bill in a