

but we have seen some very positive things happening in the State of Minnesota and we have indication at this point that their recidivism rate is dropping. The inmates I have talked to, and I have spent a couple days up there which certainly doesn't make me an expert and I'm not purporting to be an expert, but the inmates I have talked to are very pleased and very satisfied with the opportunities the Minnesota program has available to them. Now there is a lot of things that industry can provide better than we can provide ourselves and I am thinking primarily now of the Toro situation up in Minnesota, the Toro lawn mower and snow blower and this type of thing. These inmates have an opportunity through a subcontracting procedure to gain skills in the assembly of Toro equipment. Now Toro pays a fair price for this. The inmates are the beneficiaries of this price and the net result is an eight-hour work day productive upgrading work day and the alternative is idleness and that is a positive thing. Many of these men leave the institution with the skills that they have developed and learned and go right into the industry that subcontracted with them. Western Electric has a program up there where they refurbish telephones, a very successful program. It serves a need, provides an opportunity for Western Electric to handle a type of their operation in an economical and efficient manner. It also provides the inmates an opportunity to gain the skills, learn the work ethic and accumulate a little money and in Senator Schmit's amendments we have put in the concept of restitution. We have put in the concept of discretionary money...

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have thirty seconds.

SENATOR DWORAK: ...and a lot of other things. Now we can't put our head in the sand. We've got problems across this country and we need to try and solve those problems and this is a step in the right direction and I am totally convinced that with these provisions and with this enabling legislation we are going to solve, I think and everybody agrees from the American Civil Liberties Union to the prison administration to the public that our major concern is idleness. Our major...

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up.

SENATOR DWORAK: ...concern is no meaningful work and this particular amendment solves that problem.

SPEAKER MARVEL: There is an amendment on the desk. The Clerk will read.