

Senator Fowler indicate that the other two cosponsors of the resolution were not here and when his dulcet call came in, why of course I responded. The simple purpose behind the resolution is to have the Legislature take a look at what is happening in our penal system as a result of the most recent activities by the Governor and by the Warden and the like. I think it is highly appropriate that the Judiciary Committee does examine this institution. As you and I well know we can ill afford to have a portion of our population affected by practices that we would not approve of, we would find wanting. I have no idea as to what the inquiry will reveal but I think that one of the principal functions of a legislative body is an oversight function and this is the time to engage in that oversight.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I have a question of Senator Fowler.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fowler, will you respond.

SENATOR DWORAK: Senator Fowler, I would like to know precisely what you plan on accomplishing with this resolution. When you review or the Judiciary Committee reviews all letters, all papers, what do you perceive as a possible outcome from this perusal of this matter? Are you suggesting...I'll have another question then.

SENATOR FOWLER: Okay, let me say again that there is no prejudgment inherent in this resolution and there is no conclusion expected and I would also indicate that I would not be involved in the investigation because it is the Judiciary Committee that would do it. So in no way would I be involved or Senator Johnson in the outcome of this. It simply is to be a review and I guess that there are... it could be a statement that everything is going well at the penal complex, that the Director of Correction took the appropriate actions, the right amount of actions, that he was not too overly harsh, that he had foundation for what he did. I think it could certainly be a vindication of the Director of Corrections. That is one possible outcome. Another would be a statement of concern that perhaps there needs to be more done one way or another. Perhaps certain practices, accounting practices or certain budgetary practices or something need to be reviewed and changed from a legislative point of view. It seems again we're only acting on the basis of allegations and I think that is one reason there needs to be a review. Perhaps if it is possible for people to be paid for overtime without having ever worked overtime, there may be