

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and members, I would ask the adoption of the committee amendments. The committee amendments simply clarify the workmen's compensation provisions of the bill.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on the committee amendments? The motion is to adopt the Judiciary Committee amendments to LB 528. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. We are voting on the committee amendments to LB 528. Have you all voted? Record the vote, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to adopt the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments...the Chair recognizes the Chairman, Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: This is a simple but important bill, ladies and gentlemen. It codifies the authority judges have to sentence individuals to community service rather than having to keep them confined in facilities. It is particularly important that Douglas and Lancaster County, which are currently undergoing considerable overcrowding, and you may have heard of representatives from those counties. Community service has been endorsed by many important organizations concerned with criminal justice. The American Bar Association, Uniform Commissioners on State Laws, League of Women Voters, are only some of the groups that have advocated community sentencing as a sentencing alternative. It can save funds for the state and for the counties. Jails are very expensive to construct and maintain. Use of community service can divert nonviolent offenders out of the jail population and relieve pressures for new construction. It is often beneficial to the offenders. Few things are more degrading and debilitating than lack of activity. Several studies have indicated that community service has a strong rehabilitative effect upon offenders who perform community service. There is a growing trend in the nation to allow it. California has more than a hundred thousand people participating in community service. And many of you, I am sure, can recall Judge Urbom's sentence a few years ago to community service in some bid rigging cases which received national attention and praise. This would authorize district judges to do that. Many of them are doing it already. I ask for the advancement of the