

May 12, 1975

had agreed with the Judiciary Committee since 1973 so he immediately responded with the answer he was going to veto it and all the conferences and the letter exchanges which you have read in the media and heard about and seen confirm this, that he is still going to veto this bill, if we insist upon the Cavanaugh amendment or any amendment of like nature. I advised Senator Cavanaugh and his colleagues who were responsible for this sudden change of direction that, as I have just told you, that this was not really any change, that we were only coming back to the original Judiciary Committee recommendations based upon on the Curtis-Davis HDR report and I advised Senator Cavanaugh and his colleagues at that time that I personally still favored the two unit approach provided, and I underlined this and underscored it many times, provided we got something done this year. I do not in any way, this is my own personal feeling, very strong feeling, that we cannot in any way jeopardize action this year on the subject of the culmination of the correctional program. In other words, one way or another, we must take action so that if we do go with this amendment and the amendment which we have to clarify the Cavanaugh amendment, which is before you now, that if we did this, then we want to make sure we can override any veto. A consensus amendment was then drawn by all concerned which is the amendments before you now and it is very interesting, I want you to note this, that each and every member of the Judiciary Committee who put out the original LB 417 signed this amendment and their signatures are on this amendment and they approved this approach. The approach is basically this that there will be two medium minimum units built, one in Lincoln with 200 beds expandable on the service corps to 250. This will be commenced not later than July 1, 1976 at a cost not to exceed five million dollars and the A bill provides for \$350,000 money this period, this fiscal period, for the beginning of the planning and the beginning of construction. The second unit to be located in the Omaha area, and this is specifically designated in the Omaha area, which is a change. You see, the first change was the Lincoln unit was increased from 175 to 200 with an expansion on the service based to 250. The second change was, rather than just stating demographic reports will decide where the unit is going to be, this says definitely in the Omaha area at a size of 175 beds expandable on the service corps to 200 and at a cost not to exceed four million dollars and construction to begin not later than January 1, 1977, a half a year later. This is, of course, to allow land acquisition to take place in the Omaha area. It was considered by those who developed the consensus amendment that it would be best to spell out very definitely where these units would be, how much they should cost and how much money we should put into them for planning. \$300,000 is in the A bill for the planning of the Omaha unit. Then the third part of the amendment is the fact, and this is not much of a change, that the Department of Corrections will develop a program statement concerning the maximum security which is the penitentiary unit to see whether that unit will be rebuilt or restructured where it is or elsewhere at a size not to exceed 250 beds and there was \$50,000 placed in the A bill for this particular purpose. The last part of this amendment, paragraph 5, says, in planning the construction of these new correctional facilities, consideration shall be given to providing separate non-cell type housing units which is, of