

February 24, 1994 LB 988

Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Dwite Pedersen would move to amend. Senator, your amendment is found on page 693 of the Journal.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. President and members of the body, this amendment puts structured programming into the new facility which would come under this bill for secure confinement of youth that are presently in Kearney who have committed more serious crimes and those youth that are in the Nebraska State Adult Correctional Facilities. Structured programming shall be scheduled for all juveniles committed to the secure confinement. This programming shall include a strong academic program along with counseling and help with job skills, and go on into the parole part where they would have job...help with job finding, placement, and more of the mentoring type programs. If they need counseling in substance abuse, mental health counseling, then it would be available. Now yesterday, talking to some...hearing some concerns by the Nebraska State Correctional Facility on this bill and the adult crime bill, they have some concerns about us being too specific. And I didn't have much time to talk to them. I only talked to them a couple seconds and my staff talked with them the rest of the time. I think our constituencies are having a hard time with us not being specific. When we turn this over to somebody, a director, the discrepancy of the agency, without more direction sometimes they get lost. I will give you an example. Out at LCC, the Lincoln Correctional Center right now, there is in statute a program saying that they have to offer substance abuse counseling for those people who have been convicted of substance abuse type problems. However, if you are on a protective custody unit, they haven't had the programs to offer there. About three to four weeks ago I made some complaints out there and some con...logged my concerns about what is happening and they have made some changes. The changes are they are now allowing mental health counseling to substitute for substance abuse counseling, two complete different things. I think we need to be specific about the programs we want and we need to, as this body, be responsible for that. People, I see this as coming down to the fact that we are voted on to be put here and make some decisions and not just hire somebody else to make them for us. I hope that most of you have had a chance to read this amendment and see that it is...it is very important that we not just build a