

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 24, 2001 LB 543

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If people were to be paroled in the way that they should, there would be quite a bit of reduction, oh, thank you, Senator Wehrbein, because now I'm going to make some comments, there would be a reduction in the number of people who are in the institution, the big house down here in Lincoln, and you could...if you insisted on keeping that monstrosity open in Tecumseh, there are some inmates who are qualified to go on work release. They are nonviolent offenders. They shouldn't be in the institution in the first place. They understand the prison system. They've had experience in the prison system. They know how prison systems operate. They could be employed in the prison system in Tecumseh. They probably would do a better job than people you are just going to call off the street and say we need to fill however many slots and we just need bodies, so anybody whosoever will let him and her come to take this job. It might seem preposterous to suggest that inmates would run a prison. People jestingly say about a legislative body or another group doing what the critic does not like, we have a situation where the inmates are running the asylums. Well, who are better able to do it because they understand the people there. They don't...they wouldn't ruin it. They couldn't do a worse job. So maybe consideration ought to be given to finding activities in that facility that current inmates could do. What has been done, based on something I read, is to take a woman who did some embezzling and she is now doing work in the institution and streamlining the way they run the mail room in one of these state office buildings because of her knowledge.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So they are using her knowledge and skill and saving the state money. Serious consideration should be given to what I'm talking about. Maybe some of you all have not been to the prison, you don't know people who are there, but for those who have this knowledge, there are people who could do the things I'm talking about and they would not be a security threat.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bromm.