

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

April 24, 2001 LB 543

have a factory jobs that are offered out at the Nebraska State Prison, our maximum security prison we have now, where the people who run that factory say they're the best employees and they far outproduce the people they have in their factory in Fremont called TEK Industries. And when a job is open in that, they have over 100 applications of prisoners wanting it so they're not a bunch of lazy people laying around either. They want work. We need to do more to give them work, and we need to do more at looking at work release and community corrections, true community corrections, and them type of programs. We need to have them know something before they're released and with some help after they've been released and not be jamming them. When we're not paroling anybody, we really don't need a Parole Board. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Aguilar.

SENATOR AGUILAR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to speak a little bit about something Senator Chambers said earlier when he made the original suggestion. He said some of you people will probably think this is preposterous. Well, I for one don't. I mean indeed there are people as Senator Pedersen suggests that are eligible for parole, they are nonviolent, I can't think of anybody who would make a better employee in that situation than somebody who is already completely knowledgeable of how the system works. To me that would be the absolute perfect employee, not to mention the fact you don't have to worry about them showing up for work each day. I really think it's an idea that we need to consider, and I'd also like to remind everybody that how successful Senator Chambers was a year ago by threatening to withhold funds from the University of Nebraska to get their minority hirings up. That seemed to be quite successful, and I'm just wondering if that same scenario wouldn't help our Corrections Department look a little more seriously about paroling people that are eligible for parole, especially if they're nonviolent offenders. With that, I'd return any time I have left to Senator Pedersen if he'd care for it. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein.