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 LR 303-312

billings, were \$51,000. The...Lancaster County recently received, last week or perhaps the week before, received a check for \$13,000, not even close to what was actually owed. But the point is these people are being housed by the counties. They should be housed by the state. If they're not housed by the state they're not receiving the treatment. These people do deserve to have that treatment for whatever their problem is. If it's a minor problem, if it's a major problem, if they are housed in a temporary facility which is not licensed nor does it have the facilities or the personnel...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR HUDKINS: ...to do these services, then the patients are not getting the services. If the funds are being used in these community mental health places then that's great. Something is being done with them. But it's not relieving the problem of having the counties continually pay for these costs. The Governor has said no increases in sales and income taxes, but he very carefully sidestepped the problem on no new property taxes. And if these costs continue to be paid by the counties, that's exactly what it is. It's an increase in property taxes. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (Visitors introduced.) While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LR 303, LR 304, LR 305, LR 306, LR 307, LR 308, LR 309, LR 310, LR 311, and LR 312. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, I'd like to speak to you just for a moment as...in my capacity on the Appropriations Committee, and if...if we have a growth industry in the state of Nebraska it's certainly in the area of health and human services and specifically in the area of the people with mental difficulties. And I know that Senator Hudkins is correct that these people need treatment now, but I think that the...the need for treatment has far expanded beyond the capacity of the facilities of the state at the present time to accomplish the intention, and I don't think it does any good to say we'll take them into custody, move them into a facility