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FLOOR DEBATE

March 22, 2002 LB 1085

SENATOR TYSON: God, I'd like to see that. That will perpetuate a move that began in the late forties, 1947, called the deinstitutionalizing of the mentally ill. I don't know how many people we have up in Norfolk now, but we did have about 15 MDSOs that we were warehousing for the state. Let's turn them into society. Let's rely on some community services for them. In case you don't know what an MDSO is, it's a mentally disturbed sexual offender. I think we've got 35 or 40 of them in the state, but the state is now responsible for them. If you look in Omaha or a lot of other towns in Nebraska, you see people who are called homeless. A good many of them are mentally ill people. They are sick. If you look in our prisons and our jails, you will find other people who have...they, yes, have they committed a crime? Yes. Are they mentally ill? Yes. Are they getting very much attention? No. Are they participating in a cure for their illness, a lot of which can be done by prescription, by medication? No. Some are. Not enough. So we're going to pay that one...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR TYSON: ...one way or the other. Pay them in jail or pay them in the regional centers. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, business can afford to take a hit but the Legislature, in its cowardly way, chose not to. What Senator Brashear won for his business friends and the Governor is known as a Pyrrhic victory. You shoot your wad, you win a battle, but you lose the war because you have nothing left to fight with. If there's a counterattack, you are exhausted, it's over for you. Now the Governor floated this idea. When the Governor supports something, you know how his people are out there in the lobby, so many of them you can hardly find space for anybody else. They're swarming like ants. You didn't hear anything from the Governor because he is going to let this Legislature appear to be the sucker that it allowed itself to be. So I think what the Legislature needs is some time to think about