

February 19, 1980

LB 319

has never been guaranteed a darn thing. I think it is time that we advance a bill such as LB 319 which may possibly cause those individuals to take a step in the right direction for the first time in their life. I don't think they are going to put any legitimate person out of work who wants to work. Now you are always going to find people who don't want to work. A friend of mine just last week tried to hire a man and he said he can get a hundred and three bucks a week unemployment...he is not going to work. I think the individual will never work. He will never work, but I want to point out again that unemployment is low in Nebraska. I don't think we are going to solve the unemployment problem by taking the people out of the penitentiary and putting them to work, but I think we might do something to solve the crime problem. We have coddled and babied and made fools of ourselves in some instances on rehabilitation. I think it was a mistake to ever take the work out of the prison. I think it is high time we put it back. The very limited amount of effort that was put into this last year to require the reinstatement of a garden at the penitentiary has produced useful results. Why are you afraid to take one more step that might do something good? I have not had any complaints from labor. I have visited with labor people about it. They have some concern, but they are not concerned enough to have registered any formal complaint. If it ever becomes a threat to organized labor, or to an organized labor man's job, then we take a look at it. At this point in time, Senator Keyes, it is not. I am very strongly opposed the return of the bill for the Keyes' amendment, and I hope you defeat it and defeat it resoundingly.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, a question of Senator Keyes.

PRESIDENT: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Yes.

PRESIDENT: Will you respond?

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: What would be wrong with allowing the prisoner to be paid the standard rates as the other workers of the jobs they are doing, then the director of the institution deciding on how much of that money he should receive, and it