

on his pants and go to a job, put in eight hours of work for a fair wage, and when he gets done with that he is going to have something on his mind besides raising hell in the penitentiary. He is going to want to eat a fair meal and go to bed, and get some rest so he can get up the next morning and do the same thing that a million other Nebraskans are doing every day, and that a hundred and twenty million other United States citizens are doing every day. I think the entire focus of rehabilitation has got to be readdressed. You know, when I first began to visit the penal complex I thought these were fellows who just made a simple mistake and eventually they would get back in society and be productive citizens. I was amazed to find that most of them felt the only mistake they made was getting caught, and that everyone else was out of step except them. I don't think that is right. I don't think that it is right to expect society to continue to support the same people year after year after year. You say, why do we have a high degree of recidivism...because they never learned to work. They never learned to work, and the sooner the people realize that if they are going to be incarcerated, that they are going to be expected...they don't have to work, but they are going to be expected and the job opportunity will be there if they want to, to work, the better off they are going to be, the more likely they are to get in step with the rest of society and do some productive work. I think we do these people the final injustice when we lock them up and keep them idle. I would hope that you would not adopt the Chambers amendment. He said, and I say again, if it works to the detriment of the honest laboring man, and you can bring that to me at a later time I am willing to change it. If I am not here, there will be plenty of people...

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...who are willing to change it. I want to say just one final thing in conclusion, as long as I have been here for more than eleven years almost all of our efforts have been directed toward making it easier for the individual who is incarcerated. I think it is time that we spend just a little bit of our effort to relieve the burden upon the taxpayer and take some of that load off the back of the taxpayer and at the same time give the individual in the penitentiary a chance to learn how to do a day's work. I am against the Chambers amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President and members of the body,