

February 19, 1980

LB 319

PRESIDENT: Time is up, Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH:the rest of the trades all have their regular rates, and I am telling you right now you are actually stopping the inmate labor practice. You have destroyed the effect of the bill.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: I got a real crazy idea on this bill. Do something like this. This bill has already been working somewhere else. It is already tried. It is already in effect. It is not experimental. It started out experimental. I believe if you will check you will find the state of Minnesota pioneered this concept of bringing businesses and factories or whatever inside the prison walls, putting the people to work. Now, simple question...simple question for Senator Chambers, for Senator Schmit, for Senator Goodrich, for anybody else. What does the State of Minnesota do? They have already made it work. Has anybody thought about the simple expedient of simply finding out what they pay and how they work and what their contracts are? If you do that, maybe if you just followed right along with that it would work. Now, as I recall, Senator Schmit patterned this bill very closely after this successful program, so I suggest to all of you, no matter what side of it you are on, find out what they do. See how it is worked there. Find out what their wording was. Find out what they pay....simple.

PRESIDENT: Did you ask a question on that?

SENATOR DeCAMP: The question was of anybody who can answer it. What does Minnesota do on this very issue?

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR DeCAMP: That is where the program is modeled after.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator DeCamp, I'm glad you finally came alive, you know, you have compromised everything else on this floor and now you want to compromise this bill. Senator Dworak went to Minnesota. The Minnesota program is exactly like we have here. The Director of Institutions has the flexibility to make up his mind how to make it work. It is that simple. We don't need to copy any more. We have copied it. Senator Dworak and I have cooperated on it.