

April 9, 1980

the basis of my concern. I think the Greenholtz attitude is counterproductive to a good judicial system. You can be firm but at the same time you can be fair. That is really the fundamental question involved here, and I believe that it is very important that you are both firm and fair and we have not seen that judicious temperament which is called for in the statutes for the position of the Parole Board that Mr. Greenholtz is to approve. Now let me say that in asking for your support to oppose the reappointment I realize that I probably have very few votes, if any, at that point to oppose this reappointment and it is not a popular position to take and I understand that, but let me tell you that my opposition to Mr. Greenholtz's reappointment and the concern of other senators and other individuals with this reappointment has not been very fruitless, in fact, it has been very productive. The word I have gotten is that the Parole Board now understands the oversight function the Legislature has in their activities, understands the responsibilities they have to the community at large and have already started to reform some of their procedures and started to recognize the fact that these prisoners which they deal with day in and day out are human beings that needed to be treated as such, and so there has been an improvement in the atmosphere with the Parole Board and for that I am thankful. It is my hope that, and it looks as though Mr. Greenholtz will be reappointed, that upon his reappointment that that changed atmosphere will continue and that it will actually improve as time goes on as they recognize the fact that they are being watched by the Legislature and that there is an oversight function that is being carried out here. And so I feel very confident that the role I played and that other members of the Legislature played in this controversy has been very productive and positive. But nevertheless it would be even more productive, even more positive, even more permanent, if we would not approve the reappointment of John Greenholtz to the Parole Board, and rather find someone else....

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: One minute, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President. If we would find some other individual with experience such as Mr. Greenholtz has, but also with that judicious temperament I talked about, with an understanding that they have to balance the interests of the community at large and the individual interests of the individuals they deal with, and somehow we have to find a balance that I don't think we have struck yet with the Parole Board, but I think that we can protect the community and we can protect the interests