

April 9, 1980

personal. I hope to try and stay away from that and talk really about the parole board, its relations to the correctional system and to what I think is basically a need for a change. Several years ago there was an attempt by Senator Koch to try and restructure the parole board and that almost succeeded. I supported that at that time and although there have been some changes in the parole process there have been some development of rules and regulations, there has been some tightening of that process. I still think that we have a very, very fragmented system between the Department of Corrections and the parole board. I think that some of the current members of the parole board are to blame for that problem. I think that there must be better cooperation between the Department of Corrections, between the process that they have developed with the Diagnostic and Evaluation Center, between their efforts at work release, between their efforts for furloughs and the parole board. That cooperation has not been forthcoming and I think that the state suffers for that. A good deal of money is invested in the correctional process. Millions of dollars, a good deal of time is invested in that. If the parole board and the Department of Correctional Services can not work in harmony then there needs to be a change. My observations from working with corrections I believe, in fact, there does need to be a change in the makeup of our approach of the parole board. For that reason I can not support the reappointment of John Greenholtz. I would say that I think he has given a good deal of service to the state and that no matter how people vote on this issue it is not in any way to say that that service is not appreciated. But there are certain issues that must be addressed and certain changes that must be made. For that reason I will vote against the confirmation of this appointment.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, before I make my statement about Mr. Greenholtz I do, like Senator Fowler, want to commend him for his thirty years of service to corrections. But I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Greenholtz on several occasions being chairman of the team that we put together here several years ago to try to improve our services at the security institution. I found Mr. Greenholtz to be almost a one person board of parole. It is obvious that he has been in that parole position so long that the parole board primarily consents to his every desire. Mr. Greenholtz is also 67 years of age. It would appear to me that he would be now willing to take retirement and enjoy his future years. I would remind you also that a number of years ago in the United States there was a national commission to study parole boards. Our law on parole appointments