

May 8, 1989

LB 814

SENATOR HALL: Okay, thank you, Senator Hannibal. Senator Hannibal, another question. You mentioned that there will be an ongoing programmatic cost with the addition of this 150 to 60 beds. Right?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: That's correct.

SENATOR HALL: Seven hundred and eighty thousand a year?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Seven eighty-six , eight thirty-eight is the estimate.

SENATOR HALL: Okay, thank you very much. Mr. President and members, I rise in support of this measure as well because I feel that the entire aspect of the corrections program has been laid out by Senator Chambers. And, as Senator Smith pointed out, I have been involved in this to a certain extent over the last couple of years looking at some of the problems, working with some inmates. I'm not convinced that the...the problem is not necessarily that we need more beds. In many cases, yeah, maybe that's true, our population is up. But I wonder if we have looked at all the alternatives with regard to incarceration such as some of the things that have been done in Douglas County, for example. Granted, even with those, Douglas County has had to add beds. And I'm not saying that that may not be where we will end up and I would venture to guess that that may very well be something that we have to take a look at. But the fact of the matter is that I'm not so sure that the beds don't exist. Maybe the beds exist. Maybe they're out in some of the 93 counties out there that have jails that aren't being utilized. Maybe what we could do...and I know Senator Chizek has talked about this and the Judiciary Committee has talked about it as well, look at a contract proposal with the counties to allow for...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...them to house some of these minimum security prisoners who are no threat to the area. They're going to be in a jail that is...at least qualifies to hold them for whatever the length of stay and contract with those communities as opposed to building brick and mortar and still having the ongoing costs that are provided that are incurred on a day to day basis because it is a matter of fact that once the beds are there they're going to be full and you're going to have to pay