

great and the people are in crisis and taking their own lives or lives of others. That waste is inexcusable. This issue should be a high priority with everyone on this floor, if you are interested in helping a number of people. We will spend millions of dollars for a number of programs. This is a small amount to spend that will help these people. Just call your county attorneys, your sheriffs, your doctors, your policemen in all of your counties and you will find, as I did, that they have a big problem getting mentally ill people in crisis into a Regional Center. So law enforcement has to drive them around in their squad cars while trying to find an in-patient bed. This takes two people to do this, several hours before they find any place. Not only is the mentally ill person not getting immediate treatment as he needs, but instead the law enforcement people must cope with the danger presented to society. Law enforcement takes the brunt of DPI's and the Governor's failure to meet this critical need. DPI and the Governor say they recognize this need for more in-patient beds at the Regional Centers but it is a very low priority. This is the same hostile attitude towards institutions, and as the World-Herald editorial put it, that community-based programs are good and that institutional care is suspect. Case after case can be cited, like the one of David Bradley, a profoundly retarded man with an IQ of 20 who couldn't speak, feed himself, turn over in bed, or go to the bathroom himself. He was moved from an institutional setting that was meeting his needs to a community program that did not. As the World-Herald editorial put it, not all retarded people thrive out of institutions, and a good example, if you have got any of these in your community, you will also see that some can survive in the halfway houses and that, and some have to be readmitted. Dr. James Wengert, a psychiatrist, who has helped DPI on many occasions when they needed a fill-in psychiatrist has told the World-Herald that the same principle of the institutionalization and similar disasters, as in the case of David Bradley, will occur in cases involving mental ill who cannot adapt outside of an institutional setting. The letters, resolutions, and newspaper articles you received from county attorneys, law enforcement officials, veterans officers, county board members, mental health commitment boards, psychiatrists and other care givers tell us over and over again of the critical need to add the 34 beds in Ward 16 at the Norfolk Regional Center. Ward 16 is already licensed, furnished, curtains, beds, all is there, and can be covered by psychiatric staff and support services. The only thing lacking is direct nursing care which would have to be hired. It is