

Police Division. From January, 1985, to the present, the Norfolk Division has taken into custody 183 individuals under the Emergency Protective Custody Provisions of the Nebraska Mental Health Act. The following is a breakdown by year of the emergency protective custody committals:" and you can read that. It was 30 in '85 and '89, in '88, 47. "As can be seen, the number of emergency protective custody committals performed by the Police Division has been steadily increasing over the years. If the trend continues during 1989, it would appear that the Police Division will have in excess of 50 emergency committals by the end of the year." Then you can go on and read the rest of it. I ask for your adoption of this amendment and I will speak to it a little later. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Peterson amendment? Senator Hefner, followed by Senator Schellpeper, Wesely, Warner, Hannibal and Goodrich. Senator Hefner, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support this amendment to LB 813. The need is very great. The need is great to open this ward at the Norfolk Regional Center. I have been contacted by some county sheriffs and quite a few county attorneys in northeast Nebraska saying they have no place to go with some of these mentally ill people. There is no help available and so they bring them back home again, and, of course, when they bring them back home again, we never know what is going to happen. Surely, surely, we can find a little money for this. We can change...we can either change the funding around or else we can add new money, and Senator Peterson offered an amendment last week, I believe it was, that we would change our priority of funding with the department, but that didn't fly. So now he has come back with an amendment that would add an additional 500 and some thousand plus. I think this is the way to go. I realize that I am a conservative in some of these fields but I just feel that the need is there and we need to do something. Senator Peterson's amendment is badly needed and I would encourage you to support it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I also rise to support Senator Peterson. I think one thing we keep forgetting is that this building is already there. We don't have to build any building, which is very important. All we have to do is just to open this ward again. The building is