

frankly, just has gone zipping by us. When we visited with people in the Omaha community over the weekend, when we became...by we, I mean me and some staff members, we became aware of the concerns about wanting more beds in Kearney. In fact, in the event that anybody is confused about what people have told me, many people have told me that there is justification in their minds for opening the beds at Kearney, but without exception there has been, thankfully, also a recognition that community efforts and state efforts have to proceed jointly on this if we are to really get ahold of this problem and so that's an encouraging note. I don't know that a week ago I would have stood up here and even said that I agree with the notion of Kearney because I, frankly, didn't know and there are still many, many things that I don't know and I think nobody else knows either for sure about where we are out there in terms of how many juveniles we can actually justify putting in a facility like Kearney. It's probably appropriate that we look at the whole program out there and make sure that they are not overburdened with too many juveniles and that, in fact, their programs are effective. I guess I view this whole situation of juvenile crime as one that is community specific. The problems that my communities will face will be very different than Omaha's and...or anybody else in the state and I would not presume to tell one community how to deal with their problems. On the other hand, I think the role of the state can best be a catalyst at this point and a supporter of some of the things that are positive going on in the community like the Chamber of Commerce activity in Omaha. It may well be appropriate that we consider adding beds and I qualify that just because I don't know specifically what the programs are like at Kearney at this point and how much of a burden we're going to place on them other than the conversation I had this morning. But if you view this whole situation as a war to be fought with limited resources, which is unfortunately true about so many areas, not just juvenile crime, it seems to me that we have to target our resources carefully and recognize that we can't fight on all fronts and you look for allies. And I think we've done a pretty good job of starting in that direction and I'm hopeful that we've started building some partnership relationships between the state and the local governments, and we've also got to think about what are the possible outcomes? Some very good points have been made about maybe if we had done things right 20 years ago, we wouldn't have the adult population or the juvenile population we have right now. That is probably true, nobody can prove it, but that's probably true, but I'm willing