

to say that I think that might be the case. So our rationale in the committee, at least for what we've done to date, is to say our first priority is trying to build a partnership with communities to help them do some things to prevent future problems and that, admittedly, is long-term. After talking to the director out at Kearney this morning, again, and he reiterated some of the numbers I've heard, they are currently at 170, supposed to be at 150, and this appropriation, if you choose to adopt it at \$300,000, would pick up...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: ...another 30 to 35 juveniles. It seems to me that...I'm more comfortable with doing this now that I think we've set our course as saying, first let's build partnerships with communities, recognize that the state can't do all of this and that we cannot just continue to open facilities, but you can probably justify doing this on a short-term basis. But I think in fairness to what is going on at Kearney and what their burdens are, I think we have to also recognize that the likelihood of this fixing the problem for very long is very slim. The director just this morning told me these beds would probably fill up in two and a half to three months. So this buys a little more time, maybe, and takes some of the pressure off, but I guess the message that I would like to send out to people is, if we adopt this particular action, that what we need next this summer as we study this whole problem of juvenile crime, is we need the active involvement of people who have some expertise in this area. We need the judges to come in and help us, we need community leaders to come in and help us...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: ...child experts and so on so that we can get in front of this problem or we'll simply be back here next year adding more beds and more beds and we still will not have solved the problem. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Nelson, followed by Senator Chizek.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I almost want to say I told you so. I had a bill here last year, brought before the Government, Military Affairs Committee, trying to address a little bit of the juvenile detention problem. I really got nowhere because it wasn't urgent, it really probably