

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Certainly.

SENATOR BOHLKE: I did understand this I think as you explained it. But would the other solution be rather than being granted the good time when they go in be as other states and have them earn that? Wouldn't that also solve the problem that we're talking about? And is the reason that doesn't work is because we don't have enough programs for people to qualify? Is that what you're saying?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You know, see, if we look at a bill like this and think that it's going to in any way deal with all of those other serious problems associated with the penal system, then it's a mistake. There's a limit to what a bill like this can do. The department mainly was trying to make its administration of the good time program simpler and uniform for everybody. Also, they were interested in having a person eligible for parole during which they could be supervised by the Parole Board before they reached the mandatory release date. Some, under the way good time is figured now, must be released before they're even eligible for parole. They might be the kinds of inmates who should get out on parole, but they can't earn the good time under the present law so you have a mandatory release date and they're never eligible for parole.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Seeing no one else wishing to speak on this bill, do you have closing, Senator Chambers?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, not wanting to clarify the issue any further, the only thing I want to say is that if a person does not behave, he or she loses good time. Secondly, the money that will be saved as a result of not incarcerating people beyond the point when even the Parole Board and the Department of Corrections feel they should be out will make it possible to hire additional parole officers and probation officers so there are trade-offs. And when you come right down to it, more is gained by this bill than not having it. And I don't see why the Department of Corrections would be interested in doing anything other than what they feel their job is. And I don't carry many bills for them. I have to be sure that I think it's in the best interest of everybody overall, like it was me who carried the legislation that made it possible for them to