

January 14, 1992 LB 327

we have used this with house arrests, electronic surveillance, those who are nonviolent, that was my bill a couple of years ago. We have looked at work release, we have something called Prison Industries, and Prison Industries is an interesting thing. You get a little more than just doing the menial labor in the kitchen and scrubbing up, but minimum wage at best. They cannot even find enough work for those who want to do something, who they want to go to work and have a job. They can't find enough jobs for them. One of the things that they do in Prison Industries is woodworking. Where did we buy our desks? Where did we buy our chairs? In Pennsylvania. How often do we in the Legislature use that prison industry? I'm trying to find that out. How often do other agencies? I know that in the welding they can make our couches, our chairs, but we really need a shot in the arm for our correctional industry. Now we can't do that unless we make a concerted effort, both in this body and in an entire state government to see what kinds of things that that corrections industry can do for us. We also have a problem with the universities and state colleges, I found out. They do not order anything from our prison system even though in most cases...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...it is a heck of a lot less and it serves a better purpose of putting people to work, teaching them skills and giving them a job to do. But when you talk about inmates on death row I think this is a solution that, you know, we may want to put them to work breaking up rocks in the prison yard like you've seen in the films, but that isn't going to happen and I don't think there is much private industry that is going to use the convicted murderers and I know we're having a tough time now finding enough work for the general population of the prison, so I oppose this amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Well, I'm surprised at Senator Pirsch's opposition. We'll keep that in mind and I'll ask that the amendment be withdrawn at this time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Is there anything further on the desk, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Madam President, the next motion I have on the bill is