

SENATOR SCHIMEK: You know, if memory serves me correctly, that is an institution where we sort of run people through at a real fast rate anyway. Can you give me some idea of why? I mean, I've been reading the paper too. I know why we're having the increase, but what kinds of juveniles are sent to Kearney and...? Well, I guess that first.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Nineteen ninety to 1994, the number of youth admitted at Geneva who were convicted of felonies increased from 101 youth to 207, which is 105 percent increase, and during this same time period the number of youth admitted at Kearney who were convicted of felonies increased from 37 youth to 156, or 322 percent increase, so it's serious crimes, felonies.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And that's what I wanted to bring out, whether it... whether these were serious crimes. And can you tell me what the average length of stay is at Kearney...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ..and at Geneva?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Geneva is 3.3 months. I will correct my Kearney. I said 4, it's 5.3. Nineteen eighty-six, the average stay at Kearney was 11.4 months, today it's 5.3. At Geneva it was 6.2 months, it's now 3.3. Essentially, they're cut in half since '86. And I want to emphasize this is for one year only. Hopefully the juvenile justice, LB 988, community services, things like that that we're trying to do will have an impact start after July 1st, but this is a... hopefully a temporary effort. I've heard a lot of criticism of a lack of space at Kearney and more are using it. I hear criticism in the community because there isn't more extreme measures taken and the result is we have a backing up out there that is very burdensome.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Well, and of course the length of stay out there is, it's so short as to be almost noneffectual anyway so...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Right.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ..thank you for the information.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Hillman,