

your light is next.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Madam Speaker, members, just a little bit on the money for the Office of Juvenile Services. This request came in and the reason I would like to speak on it a little bit, because I have some concerns that one of the alternatives to a General Fund appropriation would be to shift some of the funds that were currently appropriated for the Office of Juvenile Services. Right now, there's a million dollars in General Funds and a million dollars in federal funds for each year of the next biennium. It was suggested that OJS have the... or the Department of Corrections have the ability to open an extra cottage to take care of the overcrowding, but that perhaps not any additional funds be putting in and some of that shift could occur. I think that'd be very, very harmful looking at what we did with LB 988, the system that we're trying to set up now. It doesn't have in my estimation the proper amount of funding to initiate the program as it's designed to be and to put any of that money at risk that should go for the OJS system would be very harmful, I think, to juveniles. The other thing that's happening without being able, perhaps, to open up and enlarge the state facilities, what happens is when they're sent to the either Geneva or Kearney or for an evaluation, there's a long waiting list so what happens, those juveniles have to be kept in a secure facility, which means they go back to the juvenile detention centers on the county's payroll and the county expenses and that is causing a rise in expenses for local government, so I think it is very necessary that at this time we appropriate the extra 500,000 dollars.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Hall would like to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature. There are 30 students from Central High School in Omaha and their teachers. They are in the north balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Hartnett, your light is next.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam Chairman and members of the body, Senator Wehrbein,...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR HARTNETT: ..you, I think in your opening you mentioned something about an...something opening in Omaha this fall. Is that correct?