

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Chambers, your light is next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have a lot of articles here on boot camps and their lack of success. But rather than load you down with a lot of material that I know you will not have the time and some won't have the inclination to read, I've selected a recent one written by a person who works at Boys Town. His name is Daniel Daily, he is the Program Planning and Research person for Boys Town. This article came from the Lincoln Journal-Star, January 15, 1995, page 5C. The headline says it all, "Boot Camps: Popularity Can't Make Up for Lack of Success". And it points out how, with all the talk of boot camps, you have to realize that it's something that the politicians like, it's highly popular with the general public. Let me read this paragraph. These programs are highly popular with the general public, that has a, "mad as hell and won't take it anymore" attitude stemming from rising youth crime and violence. There's a sense that military style discipline is just what young offenders need. Whether these programs actually reduce recidivism or not, the very thought of delinquents receiving the verbal and physical intimidation that once characterized military basic training pleases a very fed up citizenry. And because the public perceives a value in boot camps, politicians too are frequently supportive of them. Then the article goes on to point out things like those mentioned by Senator Matzke, Senator Pedersen, to some extent, and points out that this can only be one component of many. There have to be programs built into the boot camp activity, there has to be follow-up of a much longer duration than any state is prepared to give. Then it points out the difference between this happening in a military setting and its happening in the way that politicians want to do it as envisioned in LB 371. It points out that in the military there are other activities that the person is going to be trained for some kind of vocation or avocation. There will be intensive training in that line, and not just the physical intimidation and abuse. I think that Senator Wehrbein asked some very penetrating questions that were both philosophic and fiscal in nature. The amount of money being spent weighed against what it is you expect to get from this, then how does this fit in the overall problem of crime and punishment, prison space and so forth. Many people on the floor have said by way of a question, we've got to do something about the overcrowding, do you know what exacerbates the problem