

February 7, 1996 LB 1141

Klein's bill, and if you'd like to get up and talk about some of the implications of OJS being in this conglomerate that you are putting together, I really think this is something that we should be aware of and talking about. It's a...it's a huge change in policy, and it's a tremendous amount of taxpayers' money going into this. And I've seen it kind of...a lot of people out there maneuvering for a number of years now, and I'm helpless really, honestly to do a whole lot about it because it doesn't seem like too many other senators are that concerned about it. So I would hope that the least we could possibly do is adopt this amendment that would ask for, and I know it's another report to the Legislature, but this is definitely one I am going to be reading because it is going to be a heck of a lot of money involved, a report to the Legislature to ask for the cost of these services, the cost per individual that has been served, the annual growth figures on these programs, what contracted services, who we contract them with. Where is this money going? Does anybody know? Does anybody know who is making these contracts? I mean I am getting some of these things on evaluation and stuff, you know, a couple of addresses in Omaha and things like that, that I don't know, good, bad. I'd rather we not be indifferent on these things and ask that these people who are involved start telling us how to save money in these areas instead of suggesting ways to spend more. You know, we're already...

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR WITEK: I am sorry. We are already spending a lot of money in these areas and I see a tremendous expansion. There's been kind of a closed mind-set and a shutdown of money into the prison systems, into corrections, so to speak, except maybe for facilities, but I have seen in the last two years, and three years a tremendous expansion, an explosion of money into these programs and into these areas, and I guess I want to stop and take a breath and take a look at it, much more comprehensively than seems to have been done so far up to this point. So I would ask for your indulgence with at least, at the very least, the approval of this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of