

April 1, 1996

LB 1189

that as a general statement collectively for the Legislature. The Legislature knows and the Legislature doesn't care. And I hope my words can be used to help some victimized inmate win a lawsuit against this state.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I hope it places some personal criminal responsibility on somebody out at that penitentiary.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yield time to Senator Chambers.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Yields time to Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We almost know what's going to happen. Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Thank you, Madam President. You know why I'm so concerned and upset about this? Because you all are looking at it in terms of numbers, you're looking at it in the abstract and not in realistic terms of people. Inmates are people too. But pretend you don't care about the inmates at all and you don't have to stretch your imagination, most of you, to arrive at that point. But you have employees of the state whom you are placing in this position. Let me ask Senator Wehrbein a question because apparently there was some back-and-forth when people from the Corrections Department appeared before the Appropriations Committee. Senator Wehrbein, did anybody ask questions about security as it relates to the safety of corrections employees who will be assigned to these Quonset huts?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, we...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...did, not to a great degree, but we did...we were concerned about that, too. I want you to understand, there was some skepticism among the committee early on because of that, and that's why our original recommendation was to go to the 480-bed medium maximum facility.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But all of that was overcome and we wind up