

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Yes.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Pedersen, I didn't get to hear all of your opening but I understand what you're doing and I guess...my main reason of my questioning is, what kind of programs are you talking about that would, in fact, take the place of incarceration, or how do you intend to approach the whole issue?

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Which institution are you talking about? The one that we're proposing now that's going to be built or what I'm talking about?

SENATOR VRTISKA: One that...what you and...what you intend to replace the incarceration with in order to take care of these young people who are having the problem.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Senator Crosby said it best, Senator Vrtiska, when she said a state-run Boys Town. Boys Town does a wonderful job with the young people that they have, both males and females. But there's a certain...it reaches a point to what kind of kid they will take. Now obviously they wouldn't take the kids that have been sentenced to prison for the murder, sex assaults ..

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, excuse me, just a minute. I guess what I'm trying to find out, I recognize that those kind of kids won't go to a place like Boys Town. What kind of a setting are you talking about then in order to accommodate those kids, that's what I'm trying to find out. Well, I missed...

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Okay...

SENATOR VRTISKA: I apologize, but I missed your opening.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Okay, it would be a...it would be a facility that would, would be firm, consistent, fair, and bring the kids into a home type situation where they're going to have somebody with them all the time. The community-based programs, for instance, will work real well as long as they have a home to go to when they're through with the community-based programs. And that is something that just started. But this would be those kids who don't have a home that's going to give them direction.