

April 2, 1996

LB 1189

SPEAKER WITHEM: Amendment is not agreed to. The call is raised. Mr. Clerk, now to the Lindsay amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Lindsay would move to amend with AM4155. (See page 1592 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. This amendment would...it's found on page 1592 of the Journal, it would allow DAS to begin negotiating for the possible acquisition of the property that was, in the past, was operated as Rivendell psychiatric hospital in Seward. The background on it is that the hospital was closed or did close, I should say. There were some allegations of some activity that occurred there that is, as yet...of yet, unresolved, but based partially on that there may or may not be an opportunity for the state to acquire that...to acquire that facility. If that facility is acquired, it's the intent that the chemical treatment center that is currently housed here in Lincoln would be moved to that facility and it is equipped, I think would be the best phrase, to...for that type of purpose. It's also...there was some intent, obviously it's not going to occur without the bill, there was at one point intent to possibly using that property for a work camp. The legislation has not passed, is not going to pass this year, so that would not be a...would be a unlikely if not impossible scenario at this point. What the...I've got an amendment that's going to come up that Senator Engel and I have that would change some of the language to make it clear that we are not appropriating but rather authorizing the negotiation, which indicates that if it's something that is a good deal for the state that it's something that we can move forward on, but if it's something where no progress can be made that we're not showing the intent that we do intend to appropriate for the purpose of acquiring. There's also an amendment that Senator Wehrbein will offer that, at first glance, I think appears to be okay also. Be happy to answer any questions regarding the acquisition. It is right now some...to an extent, in a state of flux, so to give concrete answers is going to be a little bit difficult but the...at least what present intent is. I'd be happy to try to answer those questions and I would urge the adoption of AM4155.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Mr. Clerk, I understand you have an amendment