

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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et cetera, when he was before our committee, he did talk about some of the things that the Corrections Department has been able to accomplish over the last few years, and I'd just like to read a couple of these to you. On the matter of accreditation, Nebraska is one of only five states nationally to have its entire system accredited by the American Correctional Association Commission on accreditation. Recidivism, Nebraska's recidivism rate of 22.8 percent is significantly below the national average of 32.6 percent. Level of violence, of the 13,724 assaults against staff reported nationally in 1996, only 16 occurred in Nebraska; of the 29,540 assaults against other inmates reported nationally in the same year, only 41 occurred in Nebraska's prisons. And I will go through...I will mention one more and that's escapes, during 1996, 11,773 escapes and walkaways were reported nationally, only 17 of which occurred from Nebraska Correctional Facilities, and all of those walkaways were from the department's work release centers. I could go on. I am actually reading from a letter that was sent to Senator Brashear on March 11, but these same items were mentioned by Harold Clarke in the confirmation hearing. So I would concur with Senator Chambers and ask your support.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Dwite, Pedersen, did I inadvertently turn your light off? Okay. There's no further discussion. Senator Schimek, you're recognized to close. Senator Schimek waives closing. The question before us is the adoption of the confirmation report of Mr. Clarke. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Have you all voted? Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the approval of Mr. Clarke.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Mr. Clarke is confirmed. Now for the second part of the Government Committee report, is there discussion? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I don't mind if these three names are taken as a group. I am going to now have to revert to my practice of voting no. I think Mr. Curtis is well qualified for the position he is being nominated to continue filling and that is head of the Nebraska