

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

April 14, 1999 LB 652

at Kearney and Geneva. Some people have suggested that children are there who need a tighter type of supervision than is available at Kearney and Geneva, but they don't need to be at this prison in Omaha. So we have those between children. Would you be in favor of our constructing a facility that might be a combination facility where you could separate the children who are at Geneva and Kearney, and those who need a bit more in the way of supervision but not nearly what is required in that prison? We would construct one new facility and not do this pitching and patching with Kearney and Geneva. What would you think of a proposal like that?

SENATOR JENSEN: Well, I would certainly be in favor of splitting these kids off and putting them in a separate institution, be that in another facility or part of another facility like Senator Pedersen was talking about, but, yes, we need to address that situation.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And, Senator Jensen, with the amounts of money that I'm told are being spent by Douglas County to send children outside of the state because there is no suitable place for them, and there's an attempt to get the state to absorb those costs, wouldn't that money be better spent on a new facility designed and constructed to meet the issues that are being raised here today, instead of taking large sums of money and trying to renovate two old buildings and we still have a group of children who will not be dealt with by Kearney and Geneva?

SENATOR JENSEN: Certainly, that building out in Geneva, I don't think we can spend enough dollars to renovate that. I think it ought to be eliminated, starting over from scratch. And you're absolutely right, we're spending millions of dollars in out-of...out-of-state placements of some of these kids and the dollars per day that we're being charged is tremendous, and if we could do that in-house, within our own state, we could certainly save dollars.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Would you be in favor of our converting this bill, the portions of it...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.