

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

April 14, 1999 LB 652

male adult population that most of their emphasis has been on building for them, which is we're needing the beds. And it was easy to forget about the YDCs and York, the women's prison. The women's prison, we're concerned about getting males in the individual cells, and we've got women living three to a cell out in York. There's some federal money coming down, my understanding is from the Department of Corrections, to help straighten out that program at York. I just talked with Corrections a little bit out in the...behind the glass and they said they've got \$2 million to help expand...that they could possibly use to expand maybe up to 75 beds at the youth confinement facility that they have to put kids in that need a secure confinement facility. My hope is that maybe if we can do what Senator Chambers was talking about is to use that \$2 million as starting funds to build a new facility for the Office of Juvenile Services so they can place these kids in the kind of facilities they need and put some more emphasis on the youthful offender, and not just lock them up, but have programs to go with it like we have at YD...at the youth confinement facility in Omaha. It's very important, but the money is going to be the issue here, and the money that Senator Chambers talked about is the \$3 million that Omaha is spending each year for out-of-home placements is, I believe, and what I could find out with researching law is an obligation the state should be paying all along anyway. If we'd have had the facility in our Youth Development Centers at Kearney and Geneva, the judges, the juvenile court judges would have been placing the juveniles in them places, and the state would be picking up the cost. What happened was they got so full and the revolving door started that they weren't getting any programs, that a judge, I don't know what case it was or when it was, but it was sometime ago, placed a kid out of state or placed a kid out-of-home placement that wasn't in a state facility, and the county nonchalantly picked up the bill, and it's escalated into a fact now that the counties are paying the bill and I can't find anywhere in law that the county is obligated to pay that bill. I believe that it is a state obligation and the counties should not be picking that up. So the property taxpayers in the counties of Douglas and Lancaster, those counties that are having kids that are placed in juvenile out-of-home placements, they're the only ones that are placing out-of-home, the others are placing...by the way, we don't have to worry about the other counties because