

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

April 27, 1999 LB 880

SENATOR SUTTLE: Okay. That is pretty much adults, I think. I certainly think that, as we were speaking about the juvenile needs of and the priorities that need to be looked at in this state, that our juveniles need to have the programs. And the operating costs and the construction and all of the things that this work camp could have done had it been in the proper location so that staff could be shared and facilities could be shared but isn't now, I would hope that we could vote on Senator Brown's amendment and vote it and say yes to it and then use that where the Juvenile Justice Department needs...needs those funds. Kearney and Geneva, again, are just in deplorable condition. I really think that we should think carefully about what to do with this, rather than put it into the work camps, and I would...I would urge everyone to vote for Senator Brown's amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Suttle. Further discussion, Senator Chambers, followed by Baker, Vrtiska, Brashear, and Brown.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, and after Brown, Chambers' light is on again. What I'm going to do is contact the Fire Marshal and insist on an inspection of Kearney and Geneva, and will ask for an explanation from him why a fire trap is allowed to continue operating; why a structure which, if it caught fire, would result in the vast majority, if not every one, of the young ladies out there being burned to a crisp. Where is the Fire Marshal? And I'm not going to accept any political temporizing from him. If those fire traps are allowed to continue to operate, the Fire Marshal should not be allowed to inspect any building and say, repair it immediately or shut it down. I am tired of children being the political footballs and I was often critical of former Governor Nelson for doing that very thing. He admitted around the first of the year that those projections that were given to us to justify that maximum security prison were too high. They were inflated, and I and Senator Pedersen, Dwite Pedersen, argued that. I don't know how strongly Senator Pedersen did, but I know how strongly I argued it. Politicians are allowed to lie and mend their political fences. But now we have had brought, in stark manner, to our attention the conditions under which juveniles are being detained in this state. We have maybe what would look like a