

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

April 27, 1999      LB 880

farm in progress. They tell me some ground has been broken, which could mean it's been plowed. But to send good money after bad makes no sense. Something is going to have to be done with Kearney and Geneva. Something must be done. Many of my colleagues, or at least some of them, have expressed a distaste for using cigarette money for that purpose. Here is money that will be wasted if spent in a way that Senator Brown's amendment would prevent. Prevention is better than cure. People who will wind up in that work camp by and large probably would have been placed on probation and will be placed on probation without that work camp. That was a political move from the very beginning and it remains political. If it was justified by all of those scare figures and statistics, the scare value has been taken away by statistics which again show that there's a downturn in crime. Aside from all of that, a work camp is impractical. I'm going to see how my friend "Deacon" Jones votes. He usually makes, on occasion, sound decisions about how to spend money. This would be a waste. If Senator Brown's amendment is not adopted, Kearney and Geneva still are looming as problems. You don't want to take cigarette money. Here is the money for it. You are not taking it away from an ongoing or an operational program. You're saying you're not going to dig up any more dirt, you're not going to chop down any more trees, you're not going to pull up any more stumps.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We're going to stop right wherever that project is and we're going to direct this money toward a target which we have an obligation to deal with and cannot get out of dealing with it. Rejection of Senator Brown's amendment is not going to do away with the need to address Kearney and Geneva, and when we get to her bill we'll hear whining, gnashing of teeth, and grumbling about there's no money and where will it come from. This is the money.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature. I think we need to refocus on the maximum security prison. I think there's a need for this work release,