

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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the committee to canonize "Saint" Nancy and "Saint" Dwite, I do want to say a couple of things because I've been listening all afternoon, and I swear we could go back a couple of years and get the transcript and pass it around. We've had the same discussion that we have every year or two, maybe every other year, about our correction system. I have nothing against doing something about Kearney and Geneva, and each one of you says, that should have been done a long time ago. Well, why hasn't it been done? Because we keep thinking that the juveniles will get better, I guess. Right now I don't think we should even be sending children to Kearney. It's in bad shape. Geneva is just about the same. They are not good facilities, but what do you do? You don't have enough community places. You don't have enough private institutions. I suppose the real answer to the whole thing would be that to say and just wipe out all those things that we call crimes that people do, and say they aren't a crime so you don't have to go to a jail. Sometimes...years ago, and I think there are still enforcement officers who do try to help kids by taking them home to their parents when they've gotten into trouble and so on, instead of arresting them and taking them to jail. In cities, especially, as fast as our society moves these days, that's not very realistic in most cases. So we do have to try to do something to help juveniles, and the work camp, if you...don't forget, that's for 18 or older, nonviolent crimes. It isn't for violence, and that was the whole idea. Four years ago that's all I heard, boot camp, boot camp, boot camp, and I finally got them to change it to work camp because it wasn't a boot camp. It's a work camp. It's a place to go and to learn to...learn some discipline and try to straighten their lives out, but they are supposed to be nonviolent. So the other thing I want to say is just because a task force brings in a report doesn't mean that you have to jump on the wagon right away and say we have to do every single thing that task force thinks you should do, plus the fact I don't really consider anybody on this floor except perhaps lawyers have an idea...have the knowledge of the law and they have a knowledge of why people go to prison and so on, but I don't consider anyone on this floor a real corrections expert. Which one of you wants to go out here to Highway 2 and 14th Street and run that facility? Which one of you wants to go to Kearney and try to keep those boys? And when I saw that picture that Nancy sent around, I remembered because I have been out to Kearney.