

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

April 27, 1999 LB 880

think about a year ago. They're in very bad shape and they do need rehabilitation. But let's go through the process in the right way. Let's, if it's so important to do that, then let's...let's come up with the funds and do it. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Engel. Discussion on AM1501 to LB 880. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm strongly for the amendment. In the past, I have applauded Senator Wehrbein's cautiousness as Chairperson of the Appropriations Committee and I do that again. He's doing what his job is. Every car that is properly functioning has a brake, has a set of brakes. A lot of people think brakes stop a car. Brakes don't stop the car. Brakes stop the wheel from turning; the tires stop the car. You can have excellent brakes, but if the tires are no good, the car, the wheels will stop turning, but the car is going to continue sliding. Now the role that Senator...Senator Wehrbein, I started to say Senator "Cautious", Senator Wehrbein serves is to tell us to think twice and we've thought a lot of times on this. I will tell you why it's good for us to go ahead and do this now and advance the bill. There will not be just amorphous discussion about what might be or the possibility of this and that. We will have put it in the form that we intended to have when it's enacted through LB 880. I have told Senator Kristensen, I've said it to various other members of the Legislature, if the way this amendment is drafted results in money being taken from other programs other than just the boot camp, then I'd be in favor of redrafting it so that it does the very focused limited thing that we are discussing here. When we were all clustered back there at Senator Brown's desk, I was emphatic in saying that we should make clear what it is we're talking about here, which we did, how we would move the money from the boot camp to these juvenile facilities for the work to be done there. Then I asked the senators standing around, are there those who understand what we're talking about enough and understand the budgeting process and how you amend the budget bill, to work with Fiscal staff to make sure that the amendment is going to be drafted to do what it is we're discussing, and several said, yes, and they got together and the amendment was drafted. I don't think anybody here who's in