

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

May 4, 1999

LB 880

this. I'm sure somewhere along the line a mentoring program has some merit. I just am not ready at this point to put a half million dollars into a Select File amendment at this point for the program, with simply the wording that is there. I hesitate spending these kinds of things without...without perhaps the whole bill that is part of what he originally proposed. I'm not clear on all of that. I think there are going to be some questions raised that we're not going to the answers to simply by appropriating the money in this circumstance. So I oppose that at this time, not to say that maybe it has some...won't have some merit in the future. I don't know how much money we can continue to do. We've tried...we're trying many things. We've got broad-based programs for drugs and alcohol, and other things that...all trying to do good things, and perhaps this list can go on and on. In a sense it's very confusing without...because we really don't have as coordinated a program as we have. I think there's lots of good intentions out there. This is one of those bills. But I believe at this time it's not appropriate to advance it, and so I will be opposing this amendment.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Senator Bruning.

**SENATOR BRUNING:** Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, in answer to Senator Wehrbein's question, and I certainly appreciate his approach, it's always been steady and I respect his opinion very much. In answer to his question, yes, I do intend to support taking out the \$950,000 for the weapons training facility. And I do pair the two I mean, in my mind it's a question of priorities, where do we want to spend the money? Do you want to spend it on a weapons training facility for the Department of Corrections, or do you want to spend it on kids? And let me tell you a little bit more about mentoring. Well before I do, actually, let me tell you a little story. Good friend of mine, named Rick Roberts (phonetic), is out in Grand Island, and let me see which direction we're facing here, west, he's out in Grand Island. And Rick has access to...he works for a car dealer out there, and he has access to a duck blind. And this duck blind, we joke about it all the time. Rick loves to duck hunt and so do I, when I can, don't always have time. But Rick loves to joke about this duck blind as the Taj Mahal of duck blinds--cemented in, it's just a beautiful