

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

May 19, 1999

LB 878

state and we're doing nothing new building for our kids. We were just asking for some replacement and not all that happened. But I...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: ...understand there's not enough in the cookie jar to take care of everything, so I'm going to support what...the override the way it is now. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Hudkins, on the override motion to LB 878.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I, too, would like to talk just a little bit about other bills and I'm pretty much echoing what Senator Dwite Pedersen just said but coming at it from a slightly different angle. I had a bill several years ago that would change the...the people who pay, well, not the people, but the system, the procedure, who has to pay in cases like this. My idea was, and I was coming at it from a county boards' point of view, that these costs should be paid for by the state. As it is now, they are paid for by the county. I have not toured the facilities at either Geneva or Kearney, so I don't know how bad the conditions are in those areas, but I'm sure that whatever money we spend there hopefully will bring them up to be safe and secure facilities, not developing into the Geneva Hilton or the Kearney Holiday Inn, and I'm sure that that would not be done. But right now these facilities, Geneva and Kearney, are for the juveniles. When the juveniles have been committed of a crime, they go to court, they have been adjudicated, they, if they were older, would go to the penitentiary. Now I'm not saying that I want these young people to go to a penitentiary, far from it. These young people are going to out-of-home placements and the county are the ones that are picking up these costs. If my memory serves me correctly, Lancaster County has just been asked for an additional \$400,000 to pay for these juvenile costs. We have to look at who is paying the bill. My opinion is that it should be the state. And, Senator Thompson, I appreciate your bringing this bill before us. At this point, I think that I will not override the Governor's veto, but I do thank you for bringing this to our attention. Thank you, Mr. President.