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LB 878

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

SENATOR PRICE: Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the body, I had the opportunity to tour the facility at Geneva. Putting all of this money, which we are very grateful for that we are getting some funding, to me is like that old expression of putting sand down a rathole. In looking at the facility, it's almost like the children are being punished or being confined instead of being rehabilitated. The environment does have a lot of effect on recovery. This doesn't have to be a plush facility, but should be very functional. When I looked at three beds in a room behind a door that was closed with no window and they were locked in at night, this does give the opportunity for abuse inside the room, and how is a caretaker to know this when they're not properly able to monitor the children in the room? The exposed overhead pipes, if you're having a bad day and you want to be taken out of this world, just throw something over that pipe and hang yourself if you get the opportunity, and it was just appalling to think that a facility was this way. Again, I'm grateful for the allotted monies in the budget, but many more dollars are needed to provide the services that we would expect these children to have and to receive when they're in this facility, and so I thank you for this time.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Price. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, Mr. President and members. Senator Thompson, I have a question that I think that Senator Price just spoke to, but...and I'll just have you shake your head "yes" or "no". (Laugh) But, as I understand it, what Senator Price said is that we have rooms there where we have one, two, three young women with no way to observe, in that room once it's locked, the abuse that may go on. Is that true? Do you know if any of the...the six hundred and some thousand dollars that we're going to do for the Band-Aid surgery is going to at least put some kind of window or observation in the doors so that, as we wait, that that situation, I didn't see it there, would be corrected?

SENATOR THOMPSON: I don't...