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LB 1214

Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'm going through the yellow publication that was given to us by the Appropriations Committee and it's clear that they have worked very hard this session, maybe harder than in times past, because of the type of game, if you want to call it that, that they were plunged into by the Governor's approach to the Legislature and that committee. There's no way that they could have just agreed to say everything the Governor wants will be rubber stamped, but I do see some things which the committee did agree to fund that I think will be a total waste of money and I'm surprised that the Governor would even submit them. Just to give an example, this Wilderness Camp, as it's called, that is going to start out costing the modest sum of \$317,550. But they're going to get federal funds for one year. That will be...this is the...reading from the yellow sheet, this is the fifth and final year this sort of...this source of federal funding is available. All prior funding was designated for adult correctional...corrections projects. Ongoing operating costs of \$3,175,000 starting in Fiscal Year 2001-02 will be from state General Funds. You are seeing \$317,000 but following that, hard on its heels, \$3,175,000 in General Funds that will be ongoing to give another place to put juveniles after you agreed to put that boot camp out in to...not Tecumseh, McCook. So this is a boondoggle for some other rural area to line up this one-term Governor some votes hoping he can get back in office. That's what this is for. There is no valid penological basis for wasting this kind of money. And for a conservative, supposedly, Legislature, at least half of whom are up for reelection, to say we're going to spend \$317,000 this year but from here on out it's going to be over \$3 million for something that is untested, that is not needed, for 50 young people at the most for 90 days, and they're going to be sent to school, they're going to be taught social skills, they're going to be taught how to manage money, in other words, they're going to miraculously do in 90 days what school systems don't do from kindergarten through twelfth grade, all of this in a punishment setting, that is preposterous. But just to give you an idea of some of the things that I'm going to be trying to change in this package that we're being given, I understand that when the Appropriations Committee is looking at all of the agencies, all