

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

March 14, 2000 LB 1217

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, now...

SENATOR THOMPSON: Well, excuse me. At this point, the law would not allow, that we passed last year, would not allow the money to be used for that purpose, so it would require this body to change the law. The law where the \$2.2 million is allocated now only is for improvements or renovations or replacement buildings at Kearney or Geneva. It cannot be used for the purpose of the parole revocation facility.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. I see. Well, there are some other things I noticed under Geneva. For example, there is a line that says renovation repairs of existing buildings, \$1,736,000, and then site improvements \$853,000. It's your judgment also that it's better to build a new building than fix up the old ones, if that's a fair restatement?

SENATOR THOMPSON: I guess my...

SENATOR RAIKES: And if it isn't, why, correct it.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Okay. Last year, when we debated this bill, we talked extensively about the need for a multipurpose building. That was one of the issues the task force that I chaired on juvenile justice the previous year had discussed, and when we talked on the floor about allocating some money, it was for that particular purpose. The plan affirmed that concern and I chose...I would be delighted to appropriate the full \$20 million this year for this purpose. Political reality is not such that that can happen. So this, to me, is a priority among the list. I do not have...I was unable to get a definitive answer from the administration so what...rather than just leave it unallocated I want to be able to enable them to begin this first facility. And next year I'll be back with a bill looking at other pieces of that. I did, in a neutral discussion, I don't want to put anyone in a spot who was helpful with...to me. They were just providing information to me. That is my understanding, that this is the priority, but when you run things through the whole process I don't have a yes or no on this. I was unable to obtain that.