

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

March 14, 2000 LB 1217

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, so that's all that I'll question you on that score, because I'm not trying to ask a trick question. If you don't have the information, I cannot hold you to that. But now I'm going to speculate, too. I don't believe that taking 90 kids... 50 kids out of there every 90 days is going to do what Senator Don Pederson suggests, namely in the overcrowding at Kearney. Because, if that is the case, and you only have to get 50 out of there every 90 days, that's happening now, coming in and going out. There wouldn't be any overcrowding now, but they're coming in faster than they're going out, that's the fact. And more than 50 are coming in during the time that he would be taking some to that camp. The camp is not going to be operational at a capacity to take all 50 of the young people that are listed in this yellow sheet. And maybe the sheet is not correct about that either. Maybe they will not have a capacity of 50, I don't know. This might just be material for informational purposes and nothing solid, because remember, we don't have a statute that tells us anything. Senator Don Pederson mentions what I've talked about, a contract. We don't know what's going to be in the contract. The Legislature will have no part to play in that. When you all talked about building those other facilities, you talked about what the capacity was going to be. All of them, Tecumseh, Broken "Bone" and the boot camp out at...well, wherever that is, McCook, thank you. Now we come to this one and everything is different, and not even a hearing. And I'm going to hammer it and hammer it and hammer it, because at some point somebody else is going to see the need to talk about public hearings, adequate public input. Senator Don Pederson does not know, I do not know, Senator Wehrbein does not know, nobody on the Appropriations Committee knows, nobody on this floor knows, no, I'm not going to say the trouble I see, because I know that, which agencies are operational now which are in a position to take some of these children because there was no hearing and no opportunity given to them to have input. We also know that it is somewhat disingenuous to say that because a senator watched a particular issue very carefully and knew that it was coming up, so he attended the hearing, and say from that that we know the public had adequate notice. I venture to say that, if you look at the public notice that the Appropriations Committee...