

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

February 10, 2003 LB 138

information, in these institutions are required to provide the standard of care that is available in the community. And if a person's life hangs in the balance and a transplant is needed and an organ is available, that person is entitled to get that transplant. A decision was made, based on the requirements of the law and the medical condition of the inmate, that she should get the transplant. I applaud the officials who made that decision. I applaud the medical people who did not allow their judgment to be clouded or compromised because of the fact that in the back of their mind they may have known there would be some kind of outcry and uproar from the yahoos in Nebraska. Nebraska is a state that is behind the times with respect to many things. If you read the report that the Supreme Court sponsored, but there were people on this task force from the county attorney's office, U.S. Attorney's Office, academicians, practitioners in every realm of criminal justice who pointed out the discrimination and the disparities in the criminal justice system, and it's worse in Nebraska than in other states. White people almost uniformly felt that there was no problem, or very little problem, but black people and other minorities pointed out, as recipients of the unfair treatment, that we see it entirely differently, and Nebraska is out of step with the whole country. When it comes to administering a parole program, Nebraska is out of step with the whole country. There is such a negative, racist, and intolerant attitude in this state at every level throughout that it infects everything that is done. The hardheartedness, the cruelty that I see on a regular basis...

SENATOR ENGEL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is distressing to me. I don't know how I would feel if I was a religious person. It probably wouldn't bother me at all because it doesn't seem to bother religious people. The incident in Lexington, where a dog was dragged for over a mile and there is to be no prosecution, but if a cop saw a private citizen dragging a dog an arrest would be made, charges would be filed, a prosecution would occur and there would be punishment. But since it's one of those sworn to uphold the law violating the law, the whole thing was dismissed. But I'm not going to dismiss it. And these other things that I've touched on from time to time will find their way into the