

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

May 14, 2003

LB 407

SENATOR BAKER: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I hope my colleagues will not be like the dog that returns to its vomit. The Governor doesn't run the Legislature. He might run some people in the Legislature. But it's time for us as an institution to stand by the decisions that we make. There are some things in the appropriations bill that I don't like. But because of the all-out assault against the integrity of the Appropriations Committee, the members of the committee and the Chairperson, I'm supporting things that ordinarily I wouldn't, because it's a much bigger issue now. It relates to the integrity of the Legislature as an institution. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Dwite Pedersen, recognized.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'm going to try and explain a couple of things. As most of you know, I visit the institutions regularly. I don't understand them as best as Mr. King in the back here, and Mr. Clarke, the director, and stuff. But I'm going to tell you a few things that I do know. The idea of this amendment on the appropriations bill is to save money. But the idea behind that is to be able to do it safely. We've got a year and a half to work out how it can be done. And what we need is more paroles. And this will force more parole. Now, it's not, obviously, unheard of, because you hear it all the time, whether you hear it in the news media or the talk shows or what Senator Schimek just said, and that's the scare tactic. The inmate that she just talked about is if he follows, or all of them things, there's no way in the world that any one of us intended to have him released just because he was at LCC. He could go to another institution. We have two other full, maximum-security facilities. And when he goes to one of them, then we take one of the minimum-security prisoners and parole them and let them go. Anybody, I think, could figure that out. We've got people out there who are dangerous, and I'm as scared of them as you are. And they should not be on the streets. But here is Department of Corrections' own numbers that I handed out