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FLOOR DEBATE

May 14, 2003

LB 407

SPEAKER BROMM PRESIDING

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR TYSON: I am going to support the reconsideration motion, because we have time, prior to what the effective date with Senator Don Pederson's amendment from last night, 2004, and we can do this in a more orderly fashion. I would say only one other thing, Mr. Speaker, and that is, even though it doesn't happen very often, I hate it when Senator Schimek is right.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bromm, members of the Legislature, on balance, I think Senator Schimek is right also. And I agree with Senator Chambers that it is a matter of the integrity of the Legislature. But it's not a matter of the integrity of the Legislature because it was attacked by the executive branch for doing this or that. It's a matter of the integrity of the Legislature because of the process, I think, we're using here. A bill to close down the Lincoln Correctional Center would have come through the Judiciary Committee. No such bill was presented to the Judiciary Committee, even though Senator Chambers and Senator Pedersen, two of our most articulate advocates for community corrections, sit on that committee. To my knowledge, it was not a subject discussed in that committee. That committee has done other things of broad reform. And I too would praise the committee. On the other hand, there are other matters that sit in the committee that are matters of structural reform that might have been advanced from the committee and acted upon, which were not. It seems to me that on a matter of this broad import that it really should go through a regular process before we shake up society with some conclusion that we're going to do this or we're going to do that. A particular confluence here has occurred because part of the people interested in this are people genuinely interested in community corrections, and another part are those who are interested in getting some cuts this next couple of years, regardless of what their interest may be in community corrections. And those two groups together, we...with those two groups together, we have the result here of what I consider to be a short-circuiting of