

it's going to cost us a lot of money to house our population that has been judged to be criminal population. And if we don't come up with a better system than we now have to prevent some of that, we're going to probably stand here five years or 10 years from now and build more and I sure don't want to have to do that. Maybe I won't be here that long but I don't want to have my predecessor (sic) have to do that either. And so I guess I would stand more or less to say this seems to me to be an unpleasant necessity at this point. I have not seen a better alternative that can be implemented quickly enough that would...that would prevent either the possibility of a prisoner lawsuit or prevent the possibility of some kind of federal court order but I sure don't like my lack of options. And we also, I think as individual legislators, have to take some responsibility for where we are right now because we define what criminal behavior is and we have passed plenty of laws that, in fact, make sentences mandatory at certain levels and so we are part of the problem. It is not a simple problem to address. There's probably nothing any more complex than the whole system that relates to criminal behavior and the prevention of that and I guess I'm standing here to say I know we have to do this but let's also keep in mind that perhaps some of the other kinds of things that we look at that will be brought before us, if not this year, perhaps next year, might have something to do with preventing criminal behavior. We all know that there's a lot of relationships between child abuse. We all know there a lot of relationships between drug and alcohol abuse and generally bad family situations and so on. And so I would hope that we would gamble a little money on maybe some of those preventive programs so that perhaps some of us five years, 10 years from now won't be standing here worrying about this and perhaps also explore the possibilities of more community based corrections and some of the alternatives that are out there. It alarmed me, frankly, a couple of weeks ago, I think it was, in the Omaha World-Herald and one of the big stories was the need to expand not only adult facilities but we have a growing juvenile population out there as well and we're going to have to take that on. We have a bill out there, LB 663, that I think is a positive step in that direction. But I guess I just want to take this opportunity to lobby just a little bit for saying, yeah, I know we've got to do this because I don't see an alternative and I don't like doing it very much but, for Pete's sake, let's, as a body, start taking a look at a subject that none of us really want to look at very bad and see if there are some preventive kinds of measures and some preventive kinds of investments we can make so